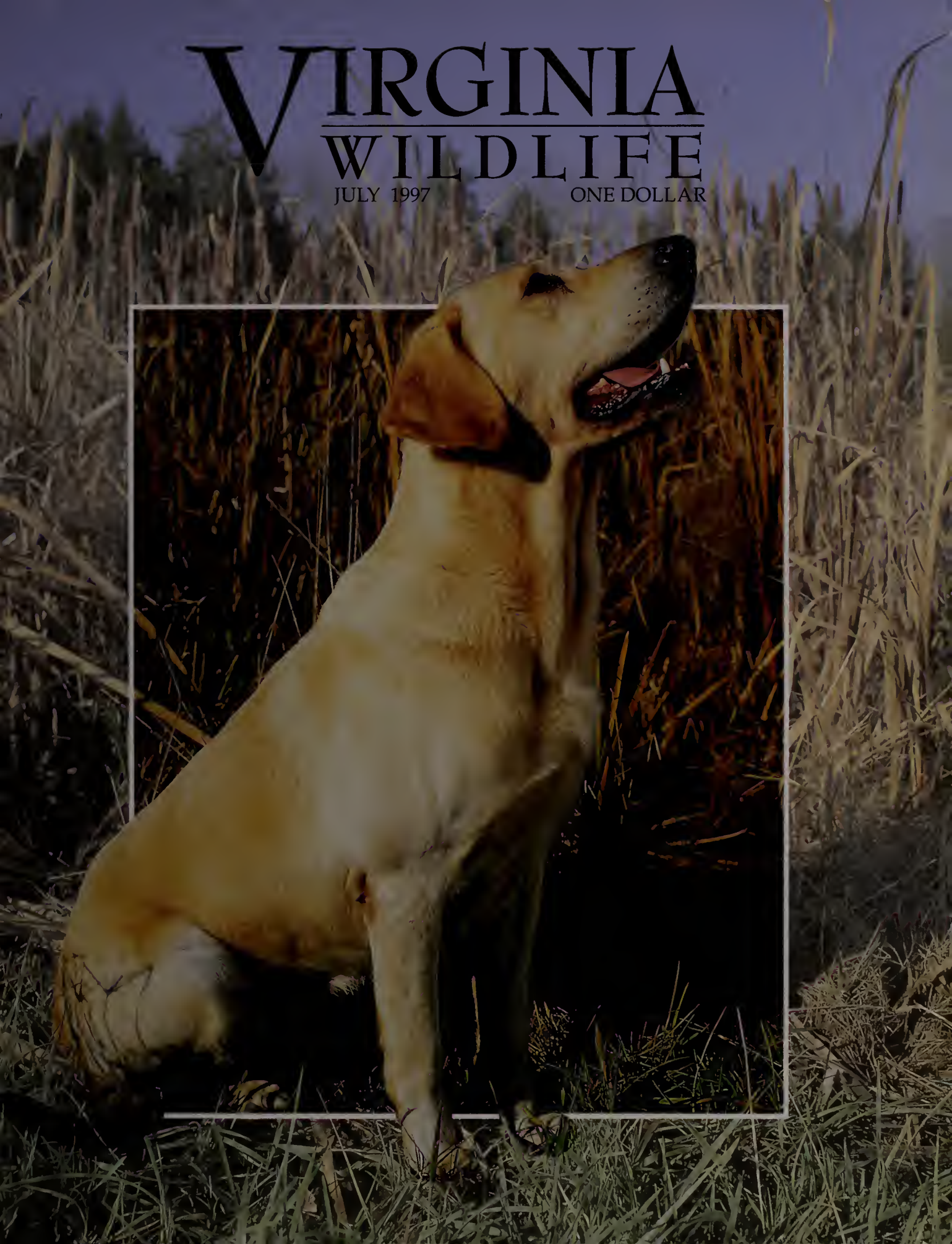
VIRGINIA WILDLIFE

JULY 1997 ONE DOLLAR



Director's Column

William L. Woodfin, Jr

How Anglers and Boaters Support Safe Recreation

Lee Walker

Fishing and boating might be the two most enjoyable outdoor recreational activities for the month of July. The Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries plays a major role in your enjoyment of these activities, but our role is in cooperation with the anglers and boaters who support the Department's work through fishing license sales, a boat sales and use tax, and titling and registration fees for boats.

Last year the Department sold a total of 766,831 resident and 87,000 nonresident fishing licenses, which generated a total of $7.4 million. The boating sales and use tax along with registration and titling fees brought in $3.6 million. We are accountable to our constituents, and we want you to know how that money is spent.

These funds support an ambitious and successful statewide effort to make recreational freshwater fishing the best it can be. The Department produces and stocks millions of fish each year and manages a significant amount of water for your angling pleasure.

Fisheries management takes place in 3,300 miles of coldwater streams, 25,000 miles of fishable warmwater streams, 13,047 acres of small impoundments and 163,295 acres of large impoundments. Species raised to various stocking sizes in Department hatcheries include striped bass, hybrid striped bass, walleye, channel catfish, rainbow, brook and brown trout, northern pike, largemouth bass, muskellunge, redear sunfish and bluegill.

Enforcement of Virginia laws regarding boating and fishing is aimed at promoting voluntary compliance with the laws and regulations of the Commonwealth. The Department has 167 game wardens spread across the Commonwealth, with assignments to each county, and more wardens will be added to the force this year and probably next year as well.

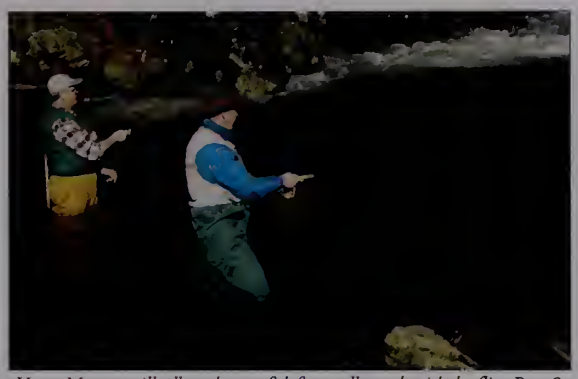
When it comes to patrolling for safe and legal boating, our wardens cover an impressive area. There are 3,200 boatable miles of rivers in Virginia, as well as 160 lakes, and numerous ponds and reservoirs. And when you realize there are 230,000 active boat registrations and 144,000 active boat titles in our state, you can get a sense at the magnitude of the job we ask our wardens to carry out.

Our wardens encourage everyone to comply with boating laws, but Virginia boaters also have many opportunities to become safe boaters through the many educational programs conducted by our Boating and Resource Education Section. These programs result in our certifying 2,000 boating education participants annually and ensuring that 15,000 Virginians receive boating safety information each year. The Department offers the Virginia Boating Basics course (on-the-water safety, navigation, legal requirements, trailering, courtesy, weather and other topics), and we maintain a committed group of 500 certified volunteer instructors who provide boating education throughout Virginia, promoting a new eight-hour personal watercraft course.

We want to thank the anglers and boaters who pay their way, and who, by their dollars, make possible the good fisheries management and boating programs we have in Virginia. As you can see, we are making every effort to give you your money's worth. ☐

Mission Statement

To manage Virginia's wildlife and inland fish to maintain optimum populations of all species to serve the needs of the Commonwealth; to provide opportunity for all to enjoy wildlife, inland fish, boating and related outdoor recreation; to promote safety for persons and property in connection with boating, hunting and fishing.



Harry Murray will tell you how to fish for smallmouth with dry flies. Page 9.

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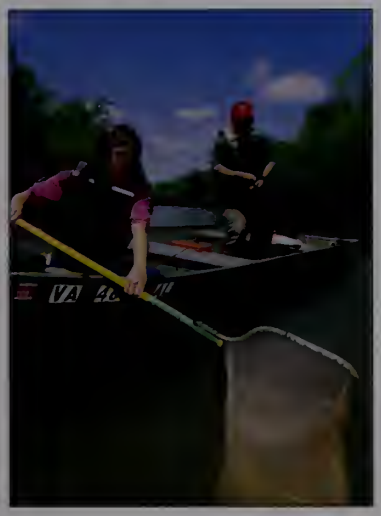

Summer is the time for floating and fishing. Page 19.

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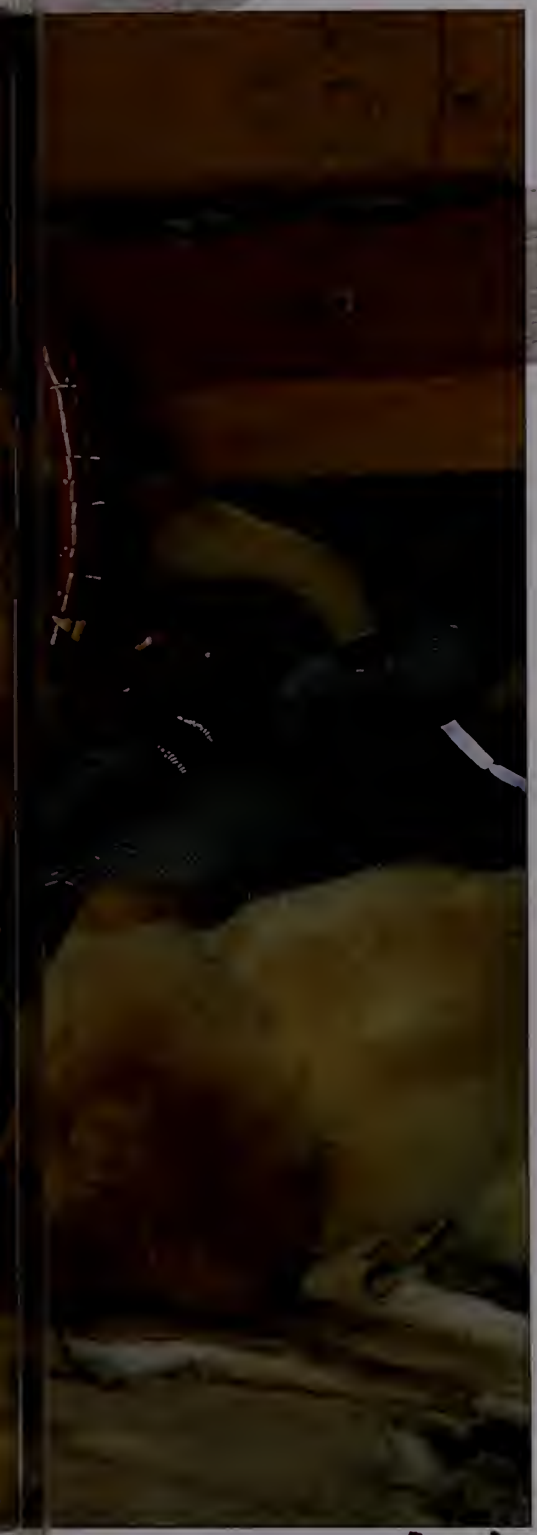
Dedicated to the Conservation of Virginia's Wildlife and Natural Resources

VOLUME 58 NUMBER 7

Labrador Retri

A European breed is now Amer



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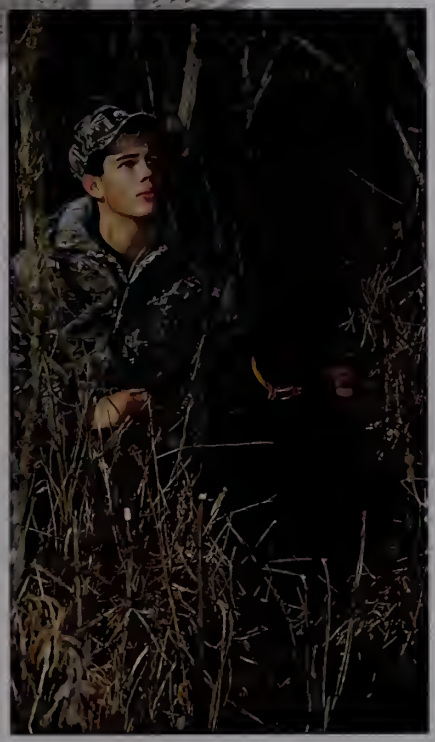
ca's Dog

by Colston Newton
Photos by Dwight Dyke



Labradors have a high energy level and strong sense of loyalty. They are trainable and eager to please. These qualities make them an ideal dog for teens who love the outdoors.

If Labrador retrievers aren't America's favorite dog, it would be hard to figure out what is. Labs can do it all—retrieve, point, flush and, at the same time, they are gentle, intelligent and make great pets, even housedogs.

While it may not make much difference in a duck blind, that Labs, unlike most dogs, don't smell bad when they're wet makes a big difference in the close quarters of a vehicle on the way home from a hunt and in the house afterwards.

Actually, they don't get that wet even on the longest of retrieves. The oily coating on their short hair keeps the water from penetrating. One good shake and they are essentially dry.

The capacity to withstand cold weather waterfowling is what allowed labs to supplant setters and other breeds as America's waterfowl dog of choice.

Although a few labs had been brought over from England around 1900 by wealthy sportsmen who wanted to emulate English estate hunting, labs didn't catch on with the general public until after the Great Depression. Then, they caught on with a vengeance, first as water dogs and, more recently, as flushing dogs, pointing dogs and plain old biscuit-eating, freeloading pets.

It is odd that the lab's first prominence in America came as a water dog. It has a keen nose and was originally used in Europe as a pointer, went to the new world on fishing ships and came back to England on the same fleet where it was turned into a retriever.

Like most dog breeds, the Labrador retriever's history is hard to pin down, but Richard Wolters in his book *Duck Dog*, presents a cogent argument that labs are pretty much the same dogs that were known as St. Hubert's dogs and raised at a monastary of the same name in the Ardennes region of France as far back as the 1500s. A wood cut of one of those dogs looks very much like the modern lab and a contemporary description of St. Hubert's dogs fits the Labrador exactly, right down to their usually being black, but sometimes pale.

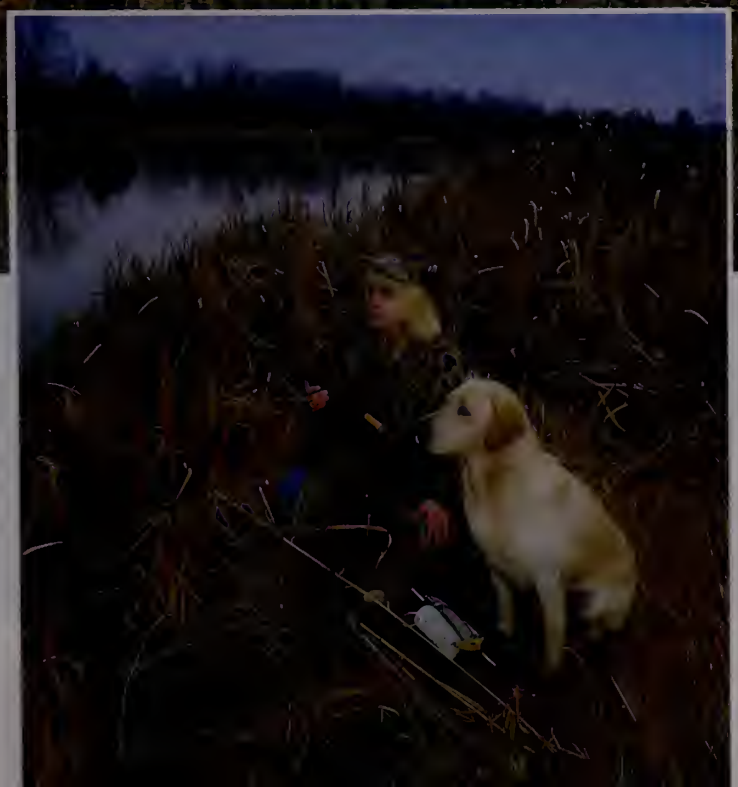
*Labs are valuable during the late resident goose season, **(top)** and for waterfowling in Fauquier County, **(above and far right)**, and are good companions in a floating blind, **(above right)**.*

Modern labs, of course, are usually black, frequently yellow, and less often a rich chocolate brown.

Wolters' research suggests that labs went to Newfoundland with the English fishing fleet that controlled the fishing in that region in the 1500s. While there, the fishermen discovered that when a fish threw a hook and floated on the surface, labs would retrieve them.

Later, about 1800, Lord Malmesbury, an English noble who had estates near the port of Poole, started a kennel of Labradors that he obtained from the sailors. He and his son kept the strain pure and used them for waterfowling.

Toward the end of the 19th century the Malmesbury dogs were crossed with another pure strain kept by the Lords Buccleuch and



Home in Scotland. Those nobles had acquired their dogs from the ships also. These were the dogs brought to America in the early 1900s.

In Newfoundland itself, where the modern dogs started, anti-dog laws and taxes designed to protect the island's efforts to become a sheep producer, caused the strain to disappear by the mid-1900s.

It is ironic that laws protecting sheep doomed the original Labradors since they

are teachable, pacific canines rarely if ever known to be killers.

Trainer Neal Selby in Remington, Virginia once demonstrated the intelligence and tractability of Labradors by training a 3-month old dog that had never been on a leash before to respond to voice commands in less than 10 minutes and without using any force.

But, even without formal training, labs quickly figure out what is expected of them and do it naturally.

Charlie Bates, a young hunter from York County, got a lab pup named Ben some years ago and the dog grew up with Charlie and his two brothers. With no training beyond Charlie hollering "fetch" and pointing when he shot a duck, Ben became a magnificent retriever.

Almost every hunter who has ever been around or owned a lab except me has such stories and if my lab hadn't bitten down on that live television cord as a teething puppy, I think she'd have been alright, too. As it was she turned out about half-right and was a shade prone to do odd things.

Then again, maybe it wasn't the electricity at all. She spent a lot of time with my oldest son, and it wouldn't have been surprising if the dog picked up some of his habits. ☐

Colston Newton is a long-time outdoor writer and newspaperman. He was recently named editor of the Tidewater Review, published in West Point, Virginia.

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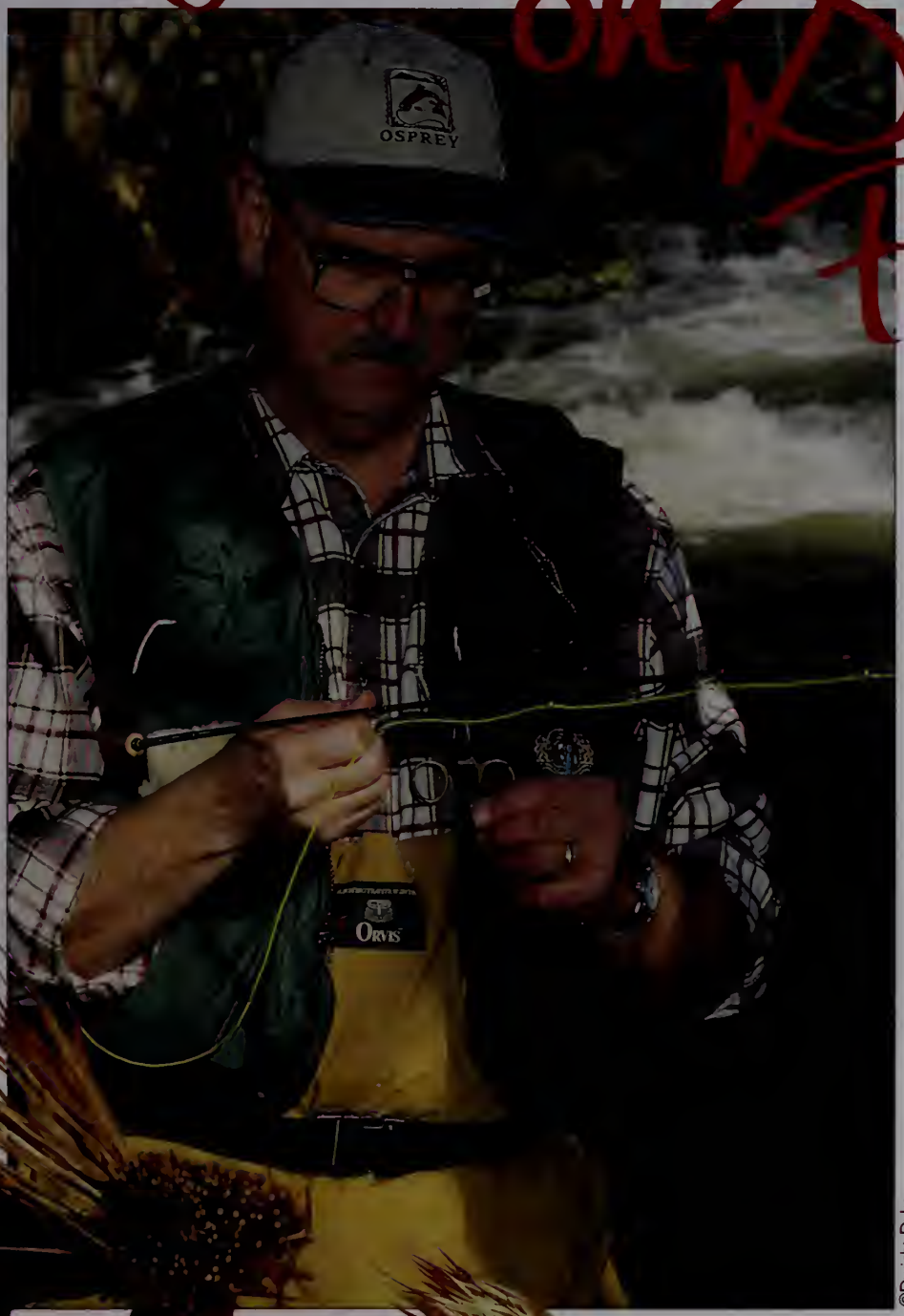
Taking Smallmouth on Dry Flies



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y Murray

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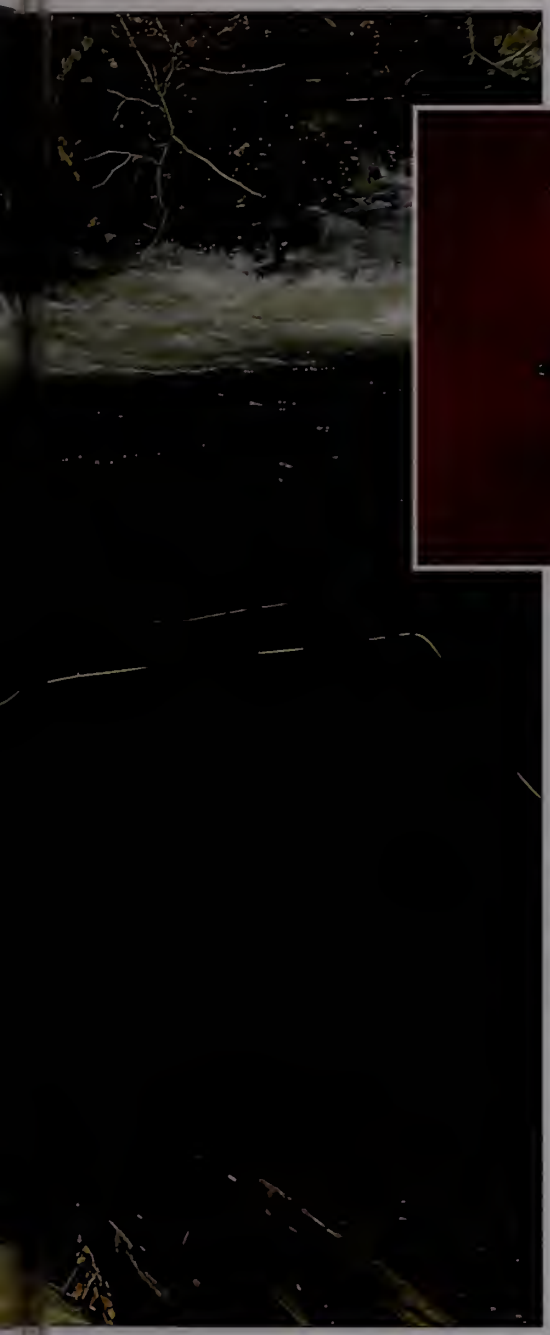
by Harry Murray

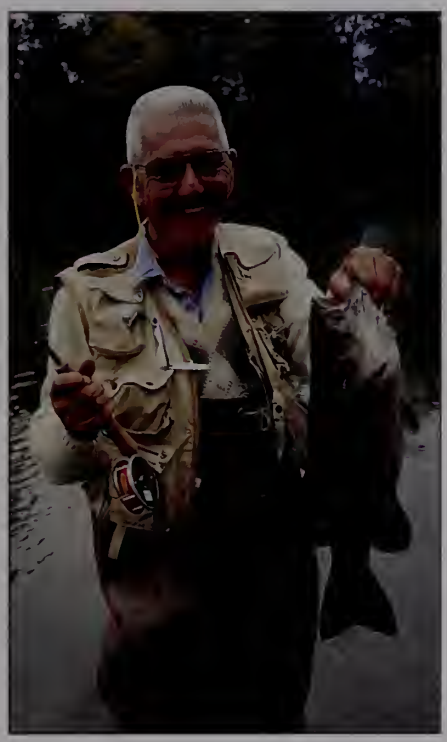
The stillness of the evening is shattered as a dark bronze smallmouth bass vaults from the river to snatch a pale blue damselfly buzzing across the water a short cast away from where you are wading. This awakens you from your daydreaming state as you recall why you came to the river this evening—to drift your dry flies over this gentleman of the warm water.

Fortunately, this bold feeding display is just one of the many ways the smallmouth bass throughout the Old Dominion take natural insects from the surface of our streams. Many anglers feel that luring smallmouths to the surface with skillfully tied dry flies which mimic the natural insects is one of the most gratifying forms of angling.

Let's examine some of the potential action available when you dry fly fish for smallmouth. We'll start in May and fish our way into the fall using the various fly patterns which match the natural insects as the season unfolds.

Every year in early May there are great hatches of caddisflies on our smallmouth streams. The bass feed quite aggressively on them as our rivers begin to recede. In fact, if your favorite area of a smallmouth stream is too high for good action in early May, it is quite possible that by simply going to the upper reaches of the river or into its feeder streams you can get excellent fishing.





Above: The satisfaction of following Harry Murray's angling advice about fishing for smallmouth bass with dry flys is evident on the face of this fisherman. ***Top left:*** *The dry Damselfly.* ***Top right:*** *Bass Skaters. Photos by Harry Murray*

I usually get my best dry caddisfly fishing from sunset until dark. At this time there are many hatching flies emerging from the stream as well as swarms of returning adult flies laying their eggs. Frequently the number of egg laying caddisflies above the stream will amaze even experienced anglers. One evening after fishing I was surprised by the appearance of my waders as I left the stream. At first glance I couldn't figure out what the thick green gelatinous mass was which covered my waders below the waterline. Closer scrutiny revealed that thousands of tiny clusters of caddis eggs had stuck to the surface of my waders. These were dropped by the adult caddisflies in just a few hours that evening.

This abundance of natural insects on the stream prompts the bass to feed very heavily. Their riseforms are often quite splashy because in both the emerging and egg-laying stages of the caddisflies they are actively moving across the surface of the stream. Thus the bass appear to always be shooting at moving targets when feeding on caddisflies.

One of the most productive sections of the streams is often the area below the riffles where the fast water begins to flatten out as it meets the pool below. Frequently I'll start right at this junction and fish downstream with a down and across stream presentation. I've found that by imparting a slight twitching action to my fly I usually catch more bass than I do with a naturally drifting fly.

The two most effective smallmouth caddisfly flies I've found are the Caddis Buck in size 8 and Troth's Elk Hair Caddis in size 12. These patterns are more durable than some trout caddisflies and they lend themselves well to the active action.

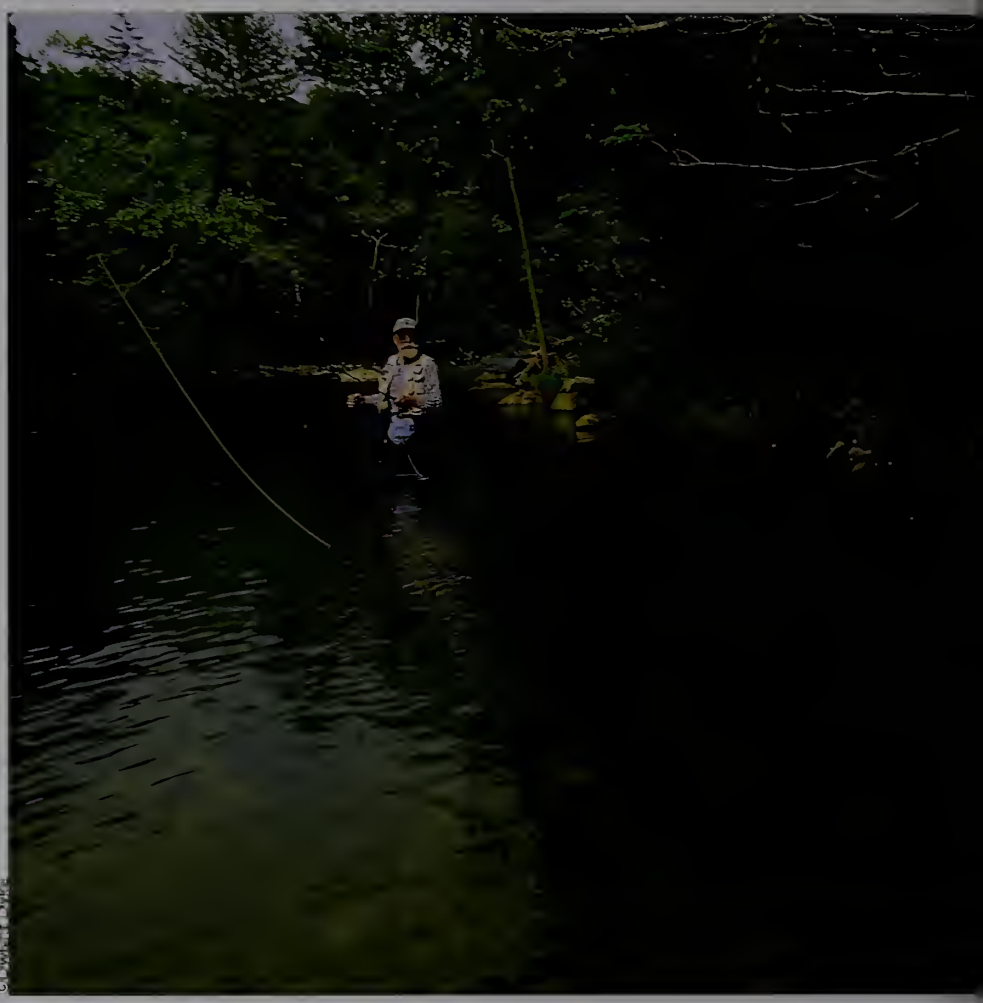
The Brown Drake Mayflies start showing upon most smallmouth streams in Virginia late in May. Strict angler-entomologists refer to the brown drake as the *Ephemera simulans*, but most smallmouth anglers are a little casual about this and refer to numerous large brown mayflies as the Brown Drake. I find that a size 8 or 10 Irresistible dry fly does the job for me any time I find these flies on the water.

The duns emerge about 7:00 p.m. and the spinners return to mate and lay their eggs a little later.

I use two different tactics when the bass are feeding on Brown Drakes. My preference being governed by the feeding mannerisms of the fish.

If there is a heavy hatch and there are many flies on the water the bass in the faster sections of the river will often find specific spots and let the current deliver the flies to them at these "feeding stations." Here I'll watch the water until I identify such feeding stations by seeing at least three rises within a foot or so of each other. Once I've located such a spot I'll wade into position and cast my Irresistible about two feet upstream of the feeding station and let the current deliver it. These fish can be very wary so be careful not to spook them as you move in. If you have not scared the bass he'll usually take your first presentation. However, if you drift your fly over him several times and he does not take it you have either spooked him or he's too smart for you. In that case, give up on him and go find a dumb one.

Now, if the hatch is sparse or the current is slow the bass may choose to feed by cruising about just beneath the surface and sip in the flies as they come to them.


©Dwight Dyke

I encountered these cruisers one evening as I was floating the North Fork of the Shenandoah River close to Edinburg. I had just drifted into a long, slow pool and there were great numbers of spent spinners falling upon the water. There were feeding bass everywhere, but the slow current apparently did not deliver the flies to them as fast as they wanted them so the bass cruised about taking the flies as they came to them.

Several trout fishing tactics I learned on western lakes work well on these cruising bass.

The most popular ploy is to watch the riseforms of a bass and try to anticipate his path to drop your fly out in front of him where you assume he'll see it. Obviously, the problem is that he may zig when you think he's going to zag and your fly may go undetected.

A second technique is to watch very closely for a rise within casting distance and then instantly cast your fly to that exact spot. The justification of this method is that at least for that precise moment you know exactly where the bass is.

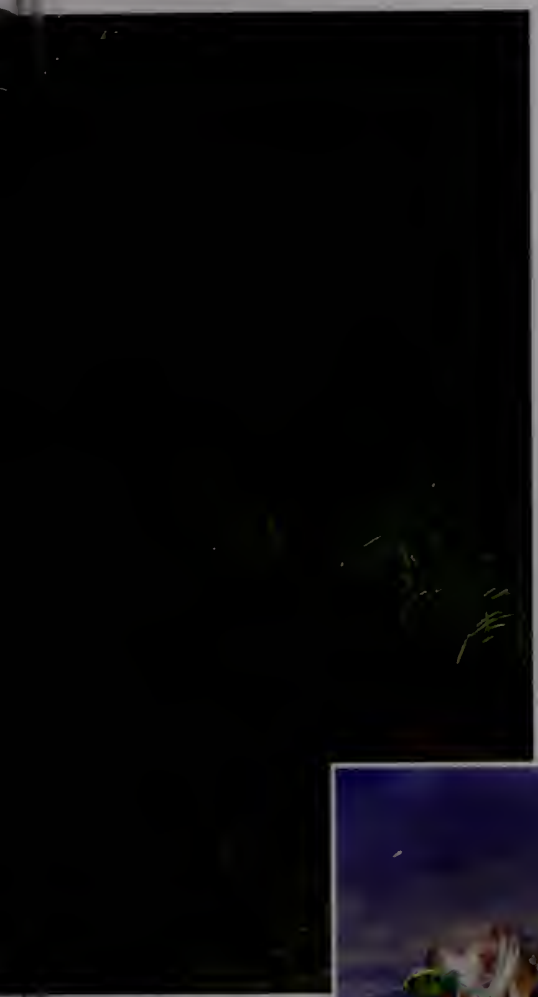
I use both of these ploys, but I never pass up the chance to "hit one on the head." If I'm fast enough this seldom fails.

Early in June damselflies start appearing around our streams and they are with us until October, increasing in number as the season progresses. They range from one to two inches long in every color imaginable, but purple, olive and reddish shades seem to predominate.

Years ago I accepted the old adage that these skinny flies were just too small to attract sizeable bass. Fortunately, the bass showed me the fallacy of this theory.

I was fishing below an old deteriorating power dam when I spotted numerous fish feeding aggressively right where the 15 foot high spill dropped into the stream. I worked the water carefully with nymphs and streamers for a long time before I finally landed a bass. As I removed my fly from his jaw I noted that the back of his throat was covered with adult damselflies. Finally, I realized that these bass were gorging themselves on adult damselflies which an upstream wind was pushing into the water falling over the dam. After I replaced my streamer with a dry Damselfly pattern I took one nice bass after another and they were all stuffed with adult damselflies. Thus educated, I decided to look for other areas where I could fish dry Damselflies for smallmouth bass.

I did not have to wait long, for just several days later I went fishing in the historic Seven Bends area east of Woodstock, Virginia. Both banks and one side of an island where I started was lined with dense aquatic grassbeds which protruded about a



For fishing fun on a river, you just can't beat the "pop" of a smallmouth hitting your fly. Left; photo by Soc Clay.

foot above the water. As I waded through one of these grassbeds to get out into the river adult damselflies erupted all about me in their dizzy flights.

I decided to experiment with a dry Damselfly tight against the grassbeds downstream.

Wading downstream about 40 feet out in the river from the grassbed along the bank I plied my dry Damselfly tight against the grass. These fish were every bit as cooperative as the ones below the dam. In fact, they averaged a little larger. It was very apparent that these bass knew damselflies well and fed regularly on the naturals. I should have considered this long before, because I knew that many of the nymphs lived in these grassy areas and actually emerged into adult insects by crawling up the grass. And it was very apparent that the grassbeds were resting areas for the adults. I suppose I simply had not been observant enough previously. But then, I've always felt that if my foresight were as good as my hindsight I'd catch more fish by a darn sight.

Since the bass are accustomed to feeding on the natural adult damselflies right along the grass it is understandable why we get our best results by fishing our drys tight against them and in the little open water bays which form throughout the grassbeds.

My favorite standard damselfly imitations are Whitlock's Spent Damsel-Dragon, the Caddis Buck and the Elk Hair Caddis.

If you have ever seen smallmouths leaping from the stream in the middle of the summer there is a good chance they have been teased into this action by adult damselflies or dragonflies buzzing across the surface of the water. They connect with many damselflies, but the dragonflies are more elusive. Their actual batting average is not really significant to us; the fact that they attempt to feed on these low sweeping insects is.

After much experimenting, I'm convinced that my success in taking these acrobatic bass is dependent more upon the way I manipulate my flies than any other factor.

That "buzzing action" of natural flies as they sweep across the surface is what I like to emulate with my dry flies. The Improved Sofa Pillow and Improved Golden Stone are the two drys which best let me achieve this action.

I like to wade downstream when fishing these two patterns which I've come to call "Smallmouth Skaters." I set myself up so the good water, such as cuts between ledges or the slicks above boulders, is down and across from me at about a 45-degree angle about 30 to 40 feet away. I cast my Skater to a spot about five feet upstream of where I suspect the bass to be holding. Instantly I extend my fly rod up and out over the water at a high angle so I can hold most of the line off the water. At this point I begin a slow sweeping action with my fly rod causing the fly to bounce across the surface in short bursts.

This spurting fly-action frequently brings explosive strikes from the bass. Sometimes their attack enables us to easily hook them, but sometimes their aim is off and there is just a very splashy miss as our fly goes dancing across the surface. Just cool it; these bass are definitely catchable, but it's often necessary to give them a minute or two to get relocated on their original feeding stations. Then cast back to the same spot, but this time use a slightly slower fly action to present him with an easier target.

I've had many wonderful evenings fishing these Skaters in the pool tails. Frequently as the sun drops below the horizon the bass become bold and move from their daytime holding water out onto these shallow pool tails to take advantage of the vast quantities of natural foods they hold.

If you like the excitement of seeing bass strike your flies on the surface and yet occasionally want to reach into your bag of tricks to come up with subtle ploys using skillfully tied creations of fur and feathers then dry fly fishing for smallmouth bass may well be your game. Many anglers definitely find it one of the most rewarding forms of fishing in the Old Dominion. ☐

Harry Murray is a freelance writer who teaches fishing and fly tying in Edinburg, Virginia.

©Dwight Dyke

Disabl

by Tom Barnett

In its ongoing effort to improve fishing opportunities for Virginians, the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF) has been adding and improving barrier-free and disabled accessible fishing locations wherever possible. Barrier-free fishing means those in wheelchairs will have access to the ramp and to the water. As much as possible, all new VDGIF facilities are being built barrier-free while older facilities are being retrofitted.

According to Phil Lownes, the Department's Capital Outlay Program Manager, five boating access ramps are slated to be retrofitted for mobility impaired access during 1997. Other projects include new facilities in Austinville on the New River and an additional access on the Briery Creek Wildlife Management Area. Both will have access for the mobility impaired.

"The driving force is to eliminate the obstacles so that all anglers and hunters can have a facility with accessibility. Our objective is to open up our facilities to all those that want to use them," Lownes said.

Barrier-free piers are constructed to allow those in wheelchairs to safely access a body of water with a reduced height rail for sitting while fishing. Barrier-free boating access ramps are designed for easy access, convenient parking, and a hard surface trail to the ramp. The dock at the ramp is built to accommodate transfer from the wheelchair onto an elevated area on the dock, and then down onto their boat seat. Many disabled anglers have developed the upper body strength and coordination required enabling them to make

Fishing opportunities for the disabled are increasing in Virginia. Here, Ed Steinkoenig, a Department fisheries biologist, talks fishing with a visitor at Burke Lake in Fairfax County.

bled Accessible

this transition. Construction modifications to Department facilities allow challenged fishermen to experience fishing and water recreation which able-bodied anglers take for granted.

The trend in facility construction is to build more access to deeper water. A new facility will be built on the James River below Richmond off of Osborne Turnpike. The pier will be long enough to reach water depths where not only bass, bream, and crappie are caught, but also rockfish, large catfish, and maybe even an occasional walleye.

To make these projects possible, Phil Lownes coordinates assistance from non-governmental sources. Substantial aid has come from the Pro-Am Team (Inc.) of Chester, Virginia, and Mercury Outboard Motors. Pro-anglers "Woo" Daves, the late Tom Fulghum, and Charles Beddow began a partnership involvement with the Department to provide handicapped accessible areas in 1986. "Woo" Daves contacted Mercury Outboards enlisting their support. Richmonder, Jim Scott, Sports Coordinator for the Mid-Atlantic Paralyzed Veterans of America, became an advisor-liaison for the project. Mercury Outboard Motors generously donates a big 150 horsepower motor to the Pro-Am Team's annual Classic Tournament. Fishermen make donations towards the random drawing, and the proceeds are set-aside into a special account which the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries earmarkes for the construction of handicapped accessible fishing piers. Over the past 11 years, nearly $50,000 has been raised. This partnership coalition also has been instrumental in constructing the accessible piers at Buggs Island, Lake Chesdin, and now the new Briery Creek facility scheduled for completion during the fall of 1997. While discussing the needs for the ambulatory and mobility impaired, Jim Scott remarked, "Fishing is one of the greatest rehabilitation tools available." He should know. He is a fishing paralyzed Vet dedicated to helping the needs of others.

Barrier-free facilities are not just for the mobility impaired; they are for everyone. The Department plans to have a variety of facilities and fishing experiences available to the public. New facilities are being built that are termed "platform trails." These are hard surface trails at the water's edge where the bank is periodically bulkheaded. A level surface for bank fishing prevents access from being denied to mobility impaired anglers. In a few years, these platform modifications will be quite visible at a large number of Department-owned facilities.

As trout stocking has been an ongoing project by the Fisheries Division of the Department for decades, this is one of the potential experiences currently being studied for platform trail fishing. The seasonal fluctuations in water volume in the mountain streams makes this a challenging prospect. Fisheries biologists are consulted on all access construction to insure the location is at an adequate water depth offering the best opportunities for good fishing. Those familiar with real estate have heard the slogan, "location, location, location." The Department's new construction and retrofits are viewed as "access, access, access!" Unfortunately, from an engineering perspective, some geography is not suitable for modification. Building facilities for fishing is much easier than for water-skiing. Only five acres are needed to provide fishing. Water-skiing requires at least 200 acres of available surface water of sufficient depth! Many of the Department's newer ramps are constructed to accommodate all enthusiasts whether mobility impaired or not.

Many disabled anglers may not be aware of the inroads made with specific physical therapy for recreational activities, and the improved adaptive fishing tackle now being

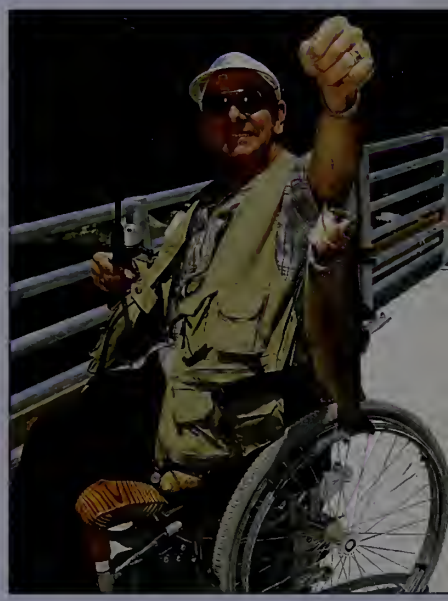
Disabled Accessible B
Fishing Piers

Top left and right: Photos by Dwight Dyke. Above: Fisherman's Friend rod holder. Bottom right: John's Reel II can assist anglers by reeling in their fish. Photos by Tom Barnett.

City/County	Facility Location	Type	Body of Water
Arlington	Geo. Wash. Mem. Pkwy.	Ramp/Pier/RR	Potomac River
Albemarle	Lake Albemarle	Ramp/Pier	Lake Albemarle
Alleghany	Lake Moomaw	Ramp/Pier	Lake Moomaw
Amelia	Amelia Lake	Ramp/Pier/RR	Amelia Lake
	Amelia Lake	Fishing Pier	Amelia Lake
Amherst	Mill Creek	Ramp/Pier/RR	Mill Creek Lake
	Monocan Park	Ramp/Pier/RR	James River
	Stone House	Ramp/Pier	Stone House Lake
Bedford	Hardy Ford	Ramp/Pier/RR	Smith Mountain Lake
Brunswick	Pea Hill	Ramp/Pier	Lake Gaston
	Great Creek	Ramp/Pier	Great Creek
Charles City	Wilcox Wharf	Fishing Pier	James River
	Harrison Fish Hatch.	Fishing Piers	Lake Harrison
Morris Creek		Ramp/Pier	Morris Creek
Chesapeake	Great Bridge	Ramp/Pier	Intra-Coastal Waterway
Chesterfield	Dutch Gap	Ramp/ Pier/RR	James River
Colonial Heights	White Bank Park	Ramp/Pier/RR	Swift Creek
Cumberland	Bear Creek Lake St. Pk.	Fishing Pier	Bear Creek Lake
Dinwiddie	Lake Chesdin	Ramp/Pier/Fishg Pier	Lake Chesdin
Emporia	Meherrin River	Ramp/Pier/RR	Meherrin River
Essex	Hoskins Creek	Ramp/Pier	Hoskins Creek
Fairfax	Burke Lake	Fishing Pier	Burke Lake
Fauquier	Lake Brittle	Ramp/Pier	Lake Brittle
	Lake Brittle	Fishing Pier	Lake Brittle
	Crockett Park	Fishing Pier	Germantown Lake
Frederick	Lake Frederick	Ramp/Pier	Lake Frederick
	Lake Frederick	Fishing Pier	Lake Frederick
Franklin	Scruggs Landing	Ramp/Pier	Smith Mountain Lake
Gloucester	Gloucester Point	Ramp/Pier	York River
	Warehouse	Ramp/Pier	Ware River
Greensville	Emporia	Ramp/Pier/RR	Meherrin River
Hampton	Fox Hill	Ramp/Pier/RR	Back River
Henrico	Deep Bottom	Ramp/Pier/RR	James River
	Osbourne Turnpike	Ramp/Pier/RR	James River
James City	Little Creek	Fishing Pier	Little Creek Reservoir
King & Queen	Melrose	Ramp/Pier	Mattaponi River
	Waterfence	Ramp/Pier	Mattaponi River
King William	Aylett	Ramp/Pier/RR	Mattaponi River
West Point		Ramp/Pier/Fishg Pier	Mattaponi River
Lester Manor		Ramp/Pier	Pamunkey River

oat Ramps, Boat Piers, and Restrooms

City/County	Facility Location	Type	Body of Water
Louisa	Dike #3	Fishing Platform	Lake Anna
Lunenburg	The Falls	Ramp/Pier	Nottoway River
Mathews	Town Point	Ramp/Pier	East River
Mecklenburg	Poplar Creek	Ramp/Pier	Lake Gaston
North Bend Park		Fishing Pier	Buggs Island Lake
Middlesex	Mill Stone/Water View	Ramp/Pier	Rappahannock R.
Mill Creek/Wake		Ramp/Pier	Rappahannock R.
Montgomery	Claytor Dam	Ramp/Pier	Claytor Lake
Nelson	Lake Nelson	Ramp/Pier	Lake Nelson
Newport News	Huntington Park	Ramp/Pier	James River
Norfolk	Elizabeth River	Ramp/Pier	E. Branch Eliz. River
	Lake Whitehurst	Fishing Piers	Lake Whitehurst
Northumberland	Coopers	Ramp/Pier	Great Wicomico River
Nottoway	Nottoway Lake	Ramp/Pier	Nottoway Lake
Orange	Lake Anna	Ramp/Pier	Lake Anna
Lake Orange		Ramp/Pier/RR	Lake Orange
Lake Orange	Fishing Pier		Lake Orange
Page	Town of Shenandoah	Ramp/Pier	So. Fork Shenandoah R.
Pittsylvania	Leesville Dam	Fishg Catwalk	Staunton River
Portsmouth	City Park	Ramp/Pier/RR	Western Branch
Powhatan	Watkin's Landing	Ramp/Pier	James River
Prince Edward	Briery Creek	Ramp/Pier/RR	Briery Creek Lake
Sandy River Res'voir		Ramp/Pier/Fishg Pier/RR	Sandy River Reservoir
Pulaski	Dublin	Ramp/Pier/RR	Claytor Lake
Richmond(City)	Ancarrow's Landing	Ramp/Pier	James River
Belle Isle		Fishing Pier	James River
Richmond Co.	Carter's Wharf	Ramp/Pier	Rappahannock River
Simonson's		Ramp/Pier	Rappahannock River
Scott	Bark Camp Lake	Ramp/Pier/RR	Bark Camp Lake
	Bark Camp Lake	Fishing Pier	Bark Camp Lake
Smyth	Hungry Mother St. Pk.	Ramp/Pier/Fishing Pier	Hungry Mother Lake
Southampton	General Vaughn Br.	Ramp/Pier	Nottoway River
Spotsylvania	City Dock	Ramp/Pier	Rappahannock River
	City Dock	Fishing Pier	Rappahannock River
Stafford	Lake Curtis	Ramp/Pier	Lake Curtis
Lake Curtis		Fishing Pier	Lake Curtis
Virginia Beach	Owl's Creek	Ramp/Pier	Owl's Creek
Westmoreland	Gardy's Mill Pond	Ramp/Pier	Gardy's Mill Pond
Chandler's Mill Pond		Ramp/Pier	Chandler's Mill Pond
York	Waller Mill Park	Fishing Platform	Waller Mill Pond



marketed. Sheltering Arms Physical Rehabilitation Hospital of Richmond, Virginia offers tailored therapy programs targeted at boosting the ability to become more involved with sports including fishing. Seriously impaired and partially impaired anglers have tackle options available today that are quite innovative. Tackle is currently available which allows an angler with limited use of their hands to fish from a wheelchair. Attachable adaptive spin casting equipment is available which is designed to cast up to 40 feet. Electric (remote) rechargeable battery pack reels can assist anglers by reeling in their fish. Other options include wheelchair rod holders, rod holding belts and harnesses, arm mounted rod holders, reel handle extensions, and adaptive knot tiers. The quality of adaptive fishing equipment is usually very good, and generally at reasonable prices. One company custom makes adaptive equipment tailored to the specific needs of the angler.

With this much opportunity available for the physically challenged, new excuses will have to be found for not catching fish. Excuses should be easy to find as even the best anglers always have plenty! ☐

Access to Recreation, Inc.
P.O. Box 5072-430
Thousand Oaks, CA 91359-5072
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Fax: 1-805-498-8186
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No charge fishing on the scenic Rappahannock River. Bring an able bodied friend.
Paradocks is a 54 foot, 2 deck vessel with an elevator. Most trips are for 3-4 hours.

Additional Disabled-Accessible Fishing Opportunities

In addition to the handicapped-accessible facilities listed above, there are some trout fishing opportunities available for those who are physically challenged. For example, Tomahawk Pond, located in the Lee Ranger District, of the George Washington and Jefferson National Forest (GWJNF), has several accessible stone fishing platforms, restrooms, and is stocked regularly with trout, bass, sunfish and catfish. The dirt path down to the pond is soft in some places but reasonably solid. It will take some muscle to handle a wheelchair on it, especially coming back up the hill. It is located off Route 610 out of Orkney Springs in Shenandoah County.

Sherando Lake, in Augusta County, is in the Pedlar Ranger District, GWJNF. It has piers constructed on both the upper and lower lakes to allow access to the lake. The lower lake has paved paths from the parking lot while the lower lake is more of a challenge since access is by dirt paths and quite a good hike from the parking area. You can get access for handicapped anglers via a dirt road by contacting the area administrator. From Lyndhurst, take Route 664 to the entrance, or from the Blue Ridge Parkway, Route 884 to Route 664.

On the Blue Ridge Parkway's James River District, of the National Park Service, a handicapped-accessible fishing platform has been built along Otter Lake. This small lake is located in Amherst County at Mile Post 63.1, right alongside the Parkway near the Visitor Center. It is stocked with smallmouth bass and is regulated as a catch-and-release only for bass. No natural bait is allowed.

Elkhorn Lake, in the Dry River Ranger, GWJNF, has three handicapped-accessible fishing platforms set over the lakeshore, accessible restrooms and parking. It is stocked with trout in spring and has a number of warmwater species including bass, bluegill, and sunfish. Take Route 250 from Staunton about 10 miles to Route 715 and turn right. Watch for Forest Service (FS) Road 96, then FS Road 95 and look for the entrance signs.

Another handicapped-accessible fishing area that has no trout, but provides some warmwater fishing opportunities, is the fishing pond at Fenwick Mines. It has bass and catfish. It is located in the New Castle Ranger District, GWJNF, and is located six miles east of the town of New Castle. From Salem, take Route 311 west about 20 miles to New Castle, turn right on Route 615 and go north. The pond is part of the Fenwick Mines Recreation Area and includes a wetlands trail for wildlife watching.

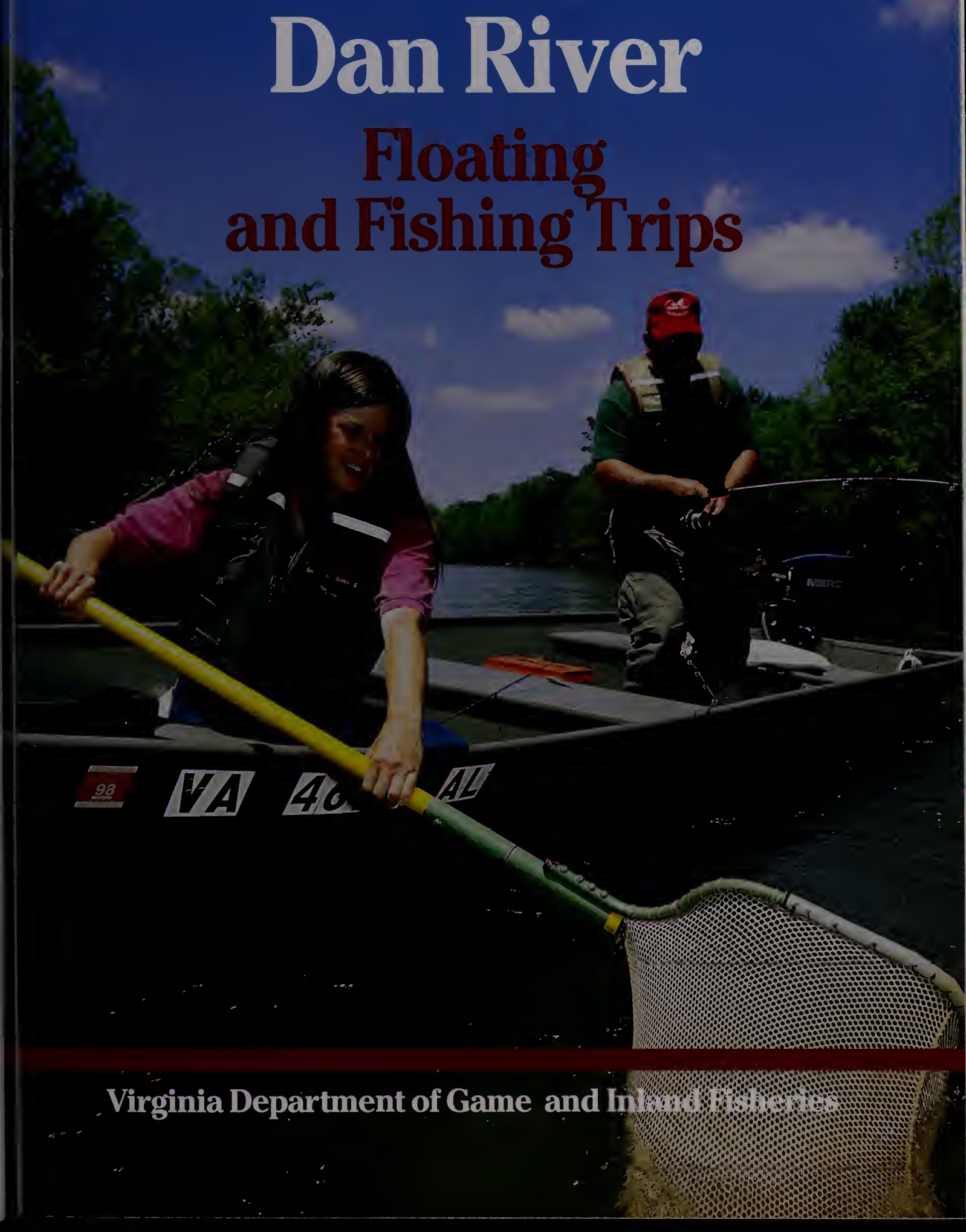
Another opportunity for the handicapped is on Cornelius Creek in the Glenwood Ranger District, GWJNF. This creek has a population of wild trout and lies in a special management area known for its wildflowers and songbirds. Take I-81 to exit 168 (Arcadia) and follow Route 614 for 2.9 miles through Arcadia to FS Road 59. Turn left on FS 59 and go to the end to the parking area and trailhead. The trail leads to a handicapped-accessible bridge over Cornelius Creek with a platform to fish from. The creek bed tends to be dry under the bridge during the summer or low water periods.

On Big Stoney Creek, there is a fishing platform and a path to the creek that are wheelchair accessible. It's located on the Blacksburg Ranger District along Route 635 near Kimballton north from Route 460 near Pearisburg.

Tom Barnett is a freelancer and an avid outdoorsman residing in Glen Allen, VA. He knows about disabilities from personal experience.

Dan River

Floating and Fishing Trips



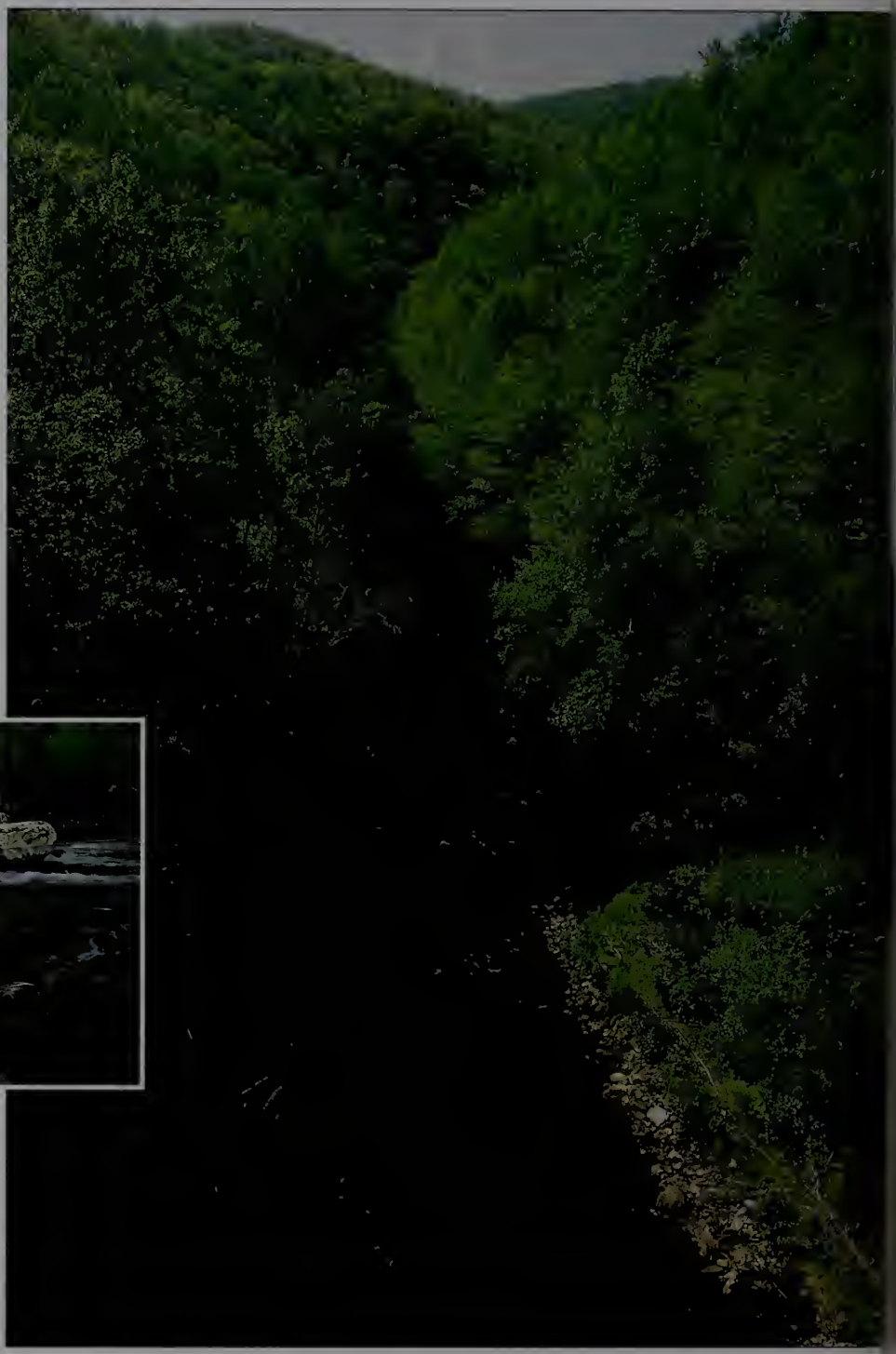
Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries

by Bob Gooch
Photos by Dwight Dyke

High in the mist-shrouded Blue Ridge Mountains a wader-clad angler bends low as he approaches a mirrorlike pool in a singing mountain stream. He studies the water. It plunges between a couple of sturdy boulders and cascades into the head of the pool. A back eddy catches his eye. A couple of false casts and his dry fly drops gently on the sparkling surface. The water boils and his dainty fake disappears. He sets the hook and his light rod bends dangerously. The fish battles with vigor. It rolls on the surface, but doesn't leap. Brookies seldom do. Soon the pressure of the little rod takes its toll and the excited angler is admiring a beautiful, deeply colored brook trout, a hardy native fish that was spawned and grew in the Dan.

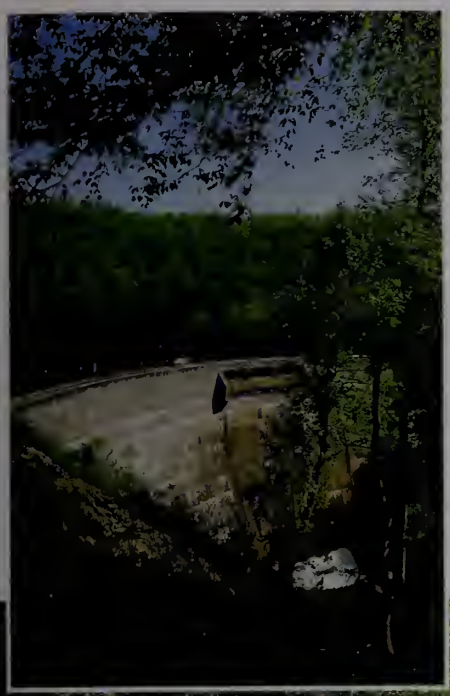
Miles down that same stream at exactly the same time on a bright April day an angler in a john boat sends his bucktail jig sailing across the broad river. He lets the current pick it up, but maintains a tight line. He feels a sharp jolt and suddenly his rod is bucking. Like the brookie, the mighty fish rolls on the surface but doesn't leap. His partner yells encouragement as the fight is waged there in the big river. The excited angler eventually leads the 25-inch striped bass to his partner's waiting net.

The Dan is a river of contrasts—even contradictions. But it also has similarities like the brookie and striped bass. Both fish fight hard, but do not leap—and both are naturally occurring.



The Dan River is one of Virginia's enticing Blue Ridge scenes that keeps anglers and canoers coming back for more.

From its Patrick County headwaters high along the eastern slopes of the Blue Ridge Mountains to its confluence with its sister river, the Staunton/Roanoke, deep in the murky waters of 50,000-acre Buggs Island Lake, the Dan is a stream for all seasons and the choice of a variety of anglers. Stand on the bank of Buggs Island Lake and rest your eyes on those still waters that conceal the confluence and you would never guess that four counties to the west, up beneath the lip of the Blue Ridge Parkway, the Dan River is a sparkling mountain stream and home to beautiful little native brook trout.



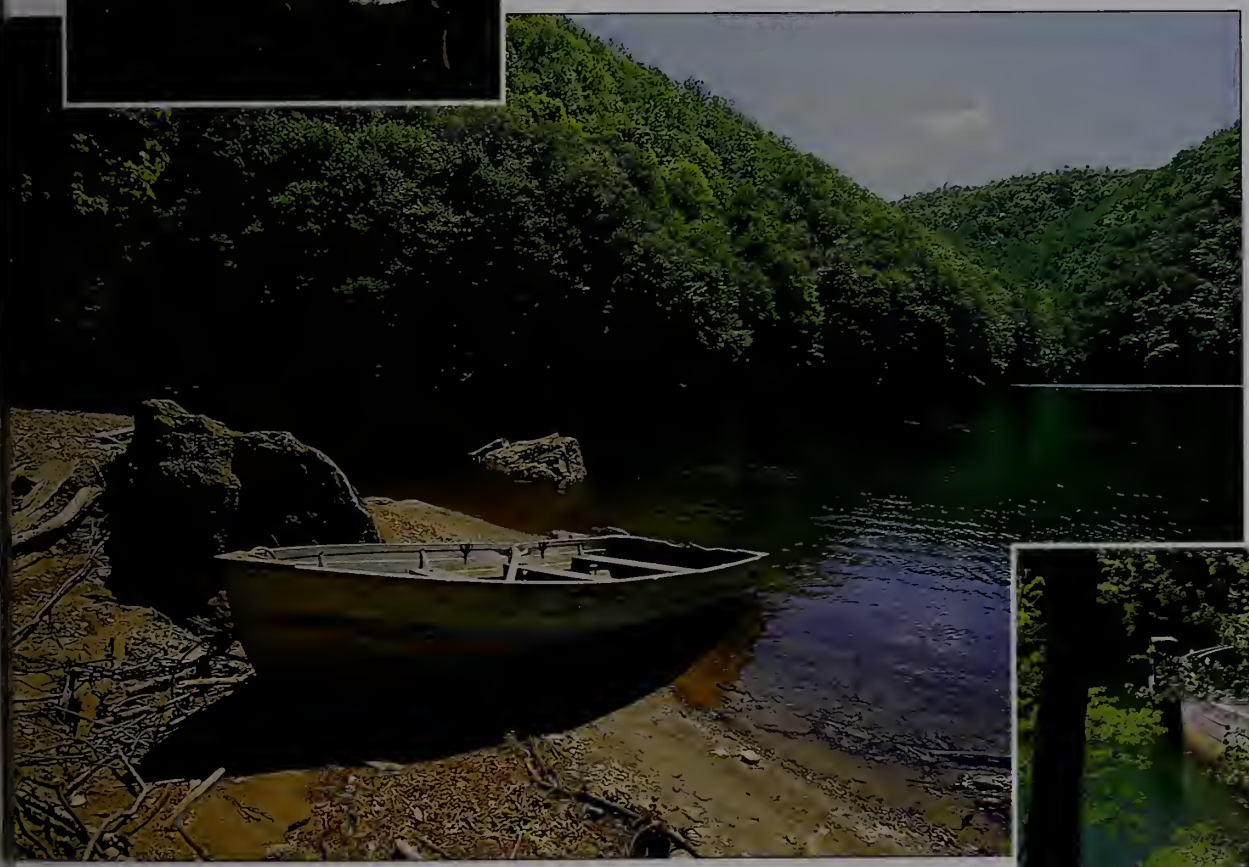
Let's begin up there.

The Dan River, an infant at this elevation, begins north of U. S. Highway 58 and slightly northeast of the delightful little mountain town of Meadows of Dan. Turn north off of U.S. Highway 58 at Cockram Millpond. The dam has long since been breached. Far upstream you will find fishing for native brookies in waters classified as a Wild Trout Stream by the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries.

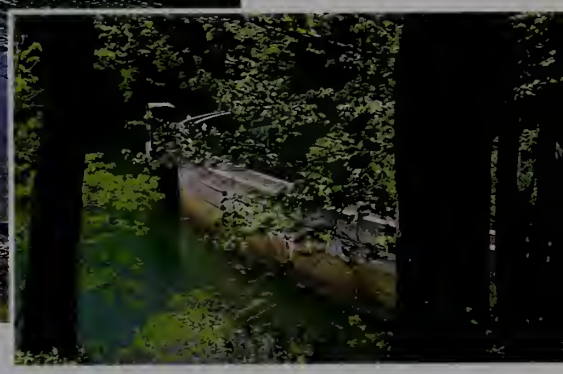
But just above and below U. S. Highway 58 it is a put-and-take trout stream—category B. The angling prize, however, begins below Talbott Dam. Here the river flows through a deep gorge which has been dubbed the Grand Canyon of Virginia, rugged and spectacularly beautiful country that appeals to the hardy. A six-mile stretch of the river ends at Townes Reservoir. To reach the upper stretches of this prize water take Secondary Routes 614 and 601 south from Meadows of Dan to Talbott Dam. The stream becomes still water once it enters the reservoir and the lower stretches are best reached by boat across Townes Reservoir. Ramps for hand-carried boats are found on both lakes. The fishing here is maintained by the natural reproduction of brown, brook and rainbow trout. The rainbows range from 8 to 12 inches and the browns may reach 18 inches.

The stream from Townes Dam to the Pinnacles Powerhouse has been designated as catch-and-release trout water . Secondary Route 648 off of Routes 773 and 103 leads to the powerhouse where you can get a free permit to fish this section of the river. These permits are also available from the City of Danville, Director of Electric Division, Department of Utilities, P.O. Box 330O7, Danville, VA 24543, telephone 804/799-5270.

The Dan from the powerhouse for several miles downstream (Kibler Valley) is also a popular put-and-take trout stream—Category A. The trout fishing eventually fades as the river passes under Route 103 and flows into North Carolina.



While the series of dams in Danville may prevent anglers and canoers from traveling downstream, there is bank fishing for catfish, bass and sunfish. ***(Upper left)****, the Talbot Dam and Lake on the Dan in Patrick County;* ***(middle left)****, Townes Lake above Townes Dam,* ***(below left)*** *on the Dan River within the Pinnacles Hydroelectric Project. Free permits are needed to fish all waters within the Project.*

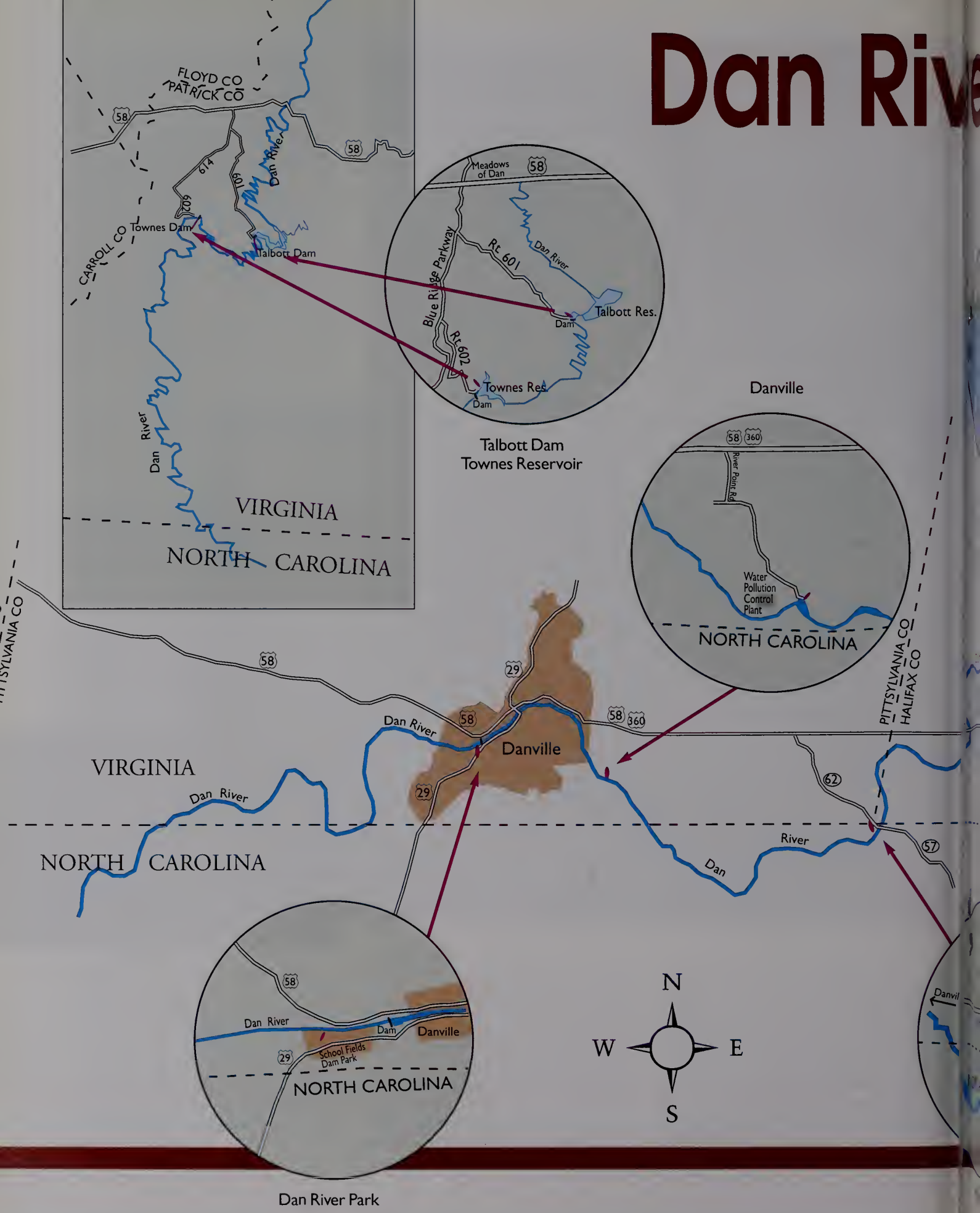


This upper section of the Dan is primarily a wadable trout stream, but it is easily accessible from Route 648 by the landowner's permission. There are a number of cabins or vacation cottages along the stream. Don't tread on someone's back yard.

The river flows back into Virginia a few miles west of Danville as a

Continued on page 24

Dan Riv



FLOYD CO
PATRICK CO
CARROLL CO
58
614
601
602
Dan River
Townes Dam
Talbott Dam
Dan River
VIRGINIA
NORTH CAROLINA
Meadows of Dan
Blue Ridge Parkway
Rt. 601
Rt. 602
Dan River
Talbott Res.
Dam
Townes Res.
Dam
Talbott Dam
Townes Reservoir
Danville
58
360
River Point Rd
Water Pollution Control Plant
NORTH CAROLINA
PITTSYLVANIA CO
HALIFAX CO
29
Dan River
Danville
VIRGINIA
Dan River
NORTH CAROLINA
62
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School Fields Dam Park
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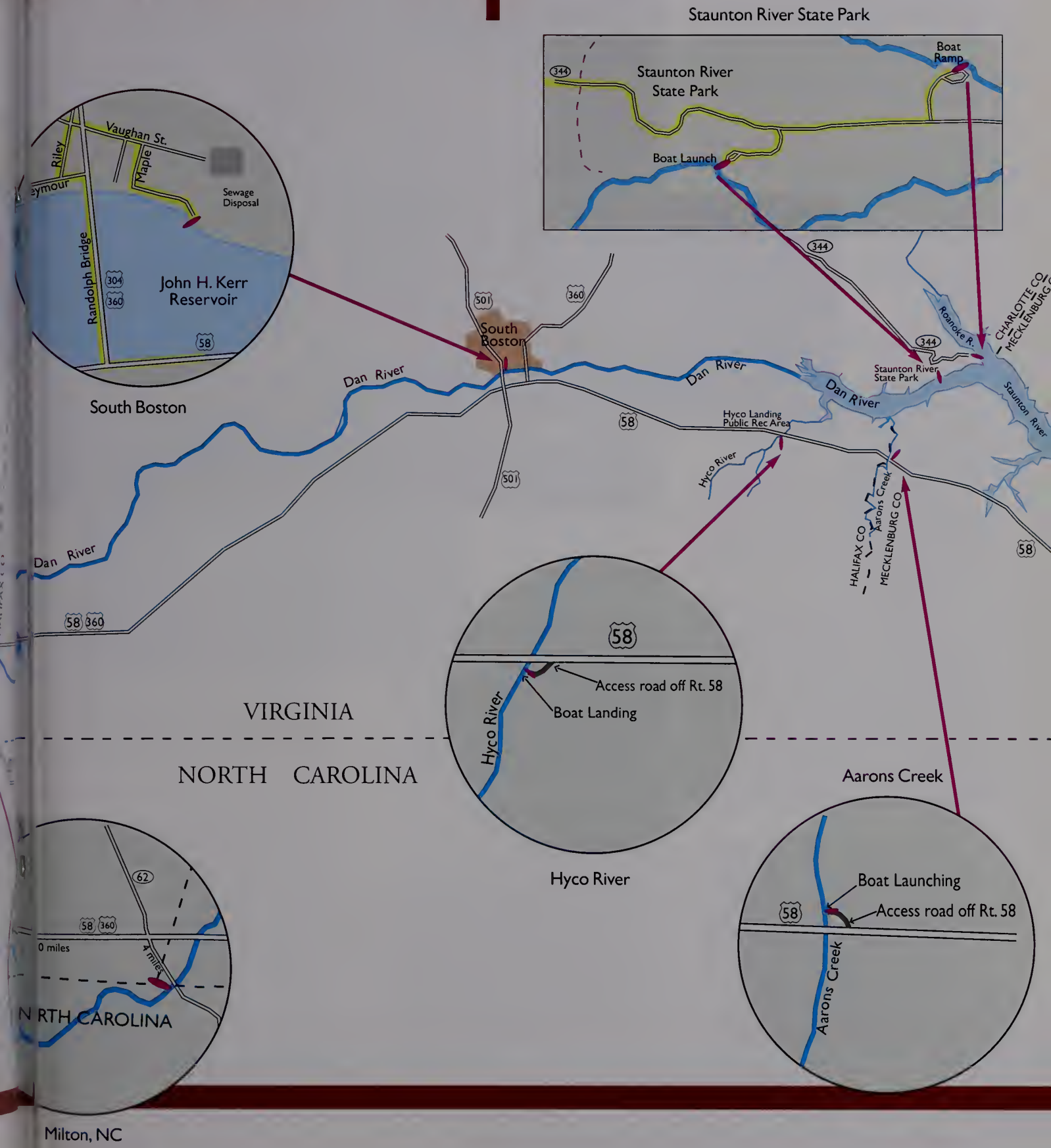


slow flowing Southside Virginia stream. Fishing is generally limited to catfish, largemouth bass, and several kinds of sunfish. The only boat access is found just off of U. S. Highway 29 (Memorial Drive) at the Danville city park (Dan River Park) on the south side of the river just upstream from the Primary Route 51 bridge. Boats launched here can go upstream, but are blocked from downstream by a series of dams within the city limits. There is some bank fishing for catfish and possibly a few bass and sunfish in the city stretch of the river.

The landlocked striped bass fishing the Dan is noted for begins east of the city with the new city of Danville access point and launching ramp just downstream from the Water Pollution Control Plant. The new launching ramp is a joint endeavor of the Dan River Anglers Association and the city of Danville.

The river flows back into North Carolina for approximately five miles before re-entering Virginia. Thanks to a reciprocal agreement, anglers can fish in North Carolina and Virginia from the Brantley Steam Plant Dam to the John H. Kerr Reservoir. They can also use the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission access point and ramp just off of Primary Route 62 at the border.

Downstream, Department of Game and Inland Fisheries ramps at South Boston, Hyco, and Aarons Creek and the Staunton River State Park offer access to the river. Typically, anglers fishing the lower reaches of the Dan do not float from one launching ramp to another, but using outboard motors fish up or downstream from the access point, putting in and taking out at the same ramp.

Migratory fish out of Buggs Island Lake are the heart of the lower Dan River fishing. Walleye begin moving as early as January, and the white perch and white bass begin to migrate when the dogwoods bloom. The most popular is the striped bass run that begins in late April and continues through May. There is also some winter fishing for walleyes.

Few rivers offer a wider variety of angling opportunities than the Dan.

Dan River Boat Landings

The upper Dan lends itself to the wading angler, but the public access on the lower Dan River is generally best suited for those using johnboat and small motors. There are, however, two one-day float trips the canoeist can easily make—the first from Danville to Milton, and the second from South Boston to Aarons Creek.

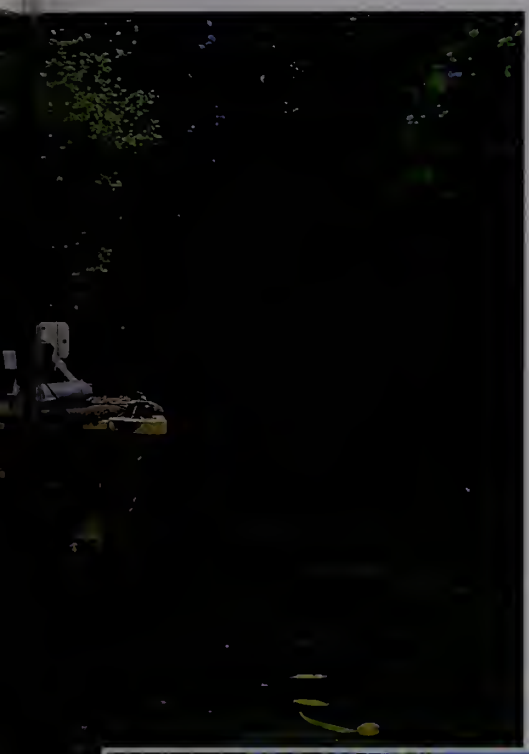
Upper Dan

Talbott Dam

A ramp for hand-carried boats off Rt. 601 provides access to the lake created by this dam. Anglers can also hike below the dam to upper end of the six-mile stretch of special regulation stream with a 16 inch minimum, limit two fish per day. Fishing includes brook, brown and rainbow trout.

Townes Reservoir

The reservoir is reached via Rt. 602, where a ramp for hand-carried boats allows the angler downstream access to the "Grand Canyon" of Virginia, a six-mile stretch of rugged and spectacular scenery and fishing for naturally reproducing brown and rainbow trout. An angler can reach the mouth of the stream by crossing the lake in a boat or canoe. Or if he prefers he can fish the lake itself. Both the stream and the lake offer exciting angling possibilities.



Above, Buggs Island Lake near Clarksville, Virginia, is known for its high quality fishing. ***(Above left),*** *striper fishing in the Dan River east of Danville can make for a beautiful day on the river, and can be tremendously rewarding, as the angler on the next page can attest.*

Dan River Park

This ramp on the south side of the river is located just upstream from the Rt. 51 bridge off Rt. 29. It allows the angler with a boat and motor to run upstream, but three dams block downstream floats. There is some bank fishing for catfish, bass and sunfish, but, the dams block the stripers from access upstream.

Danville

The landing is reached by taking U. S. 58 east out of Danville and keeping an eye out for River Point Road which is marked by a blue Water Pollution Control Plant sign. At the end of River Point Road, turn left and follow the blue signs. When you reach the river, the plant will be on your right, but turn left and you will see the access point just ahead. There will probably be some empty boat trailers in the parking lot. From this point downstream to Milton, the canoeist has a day float of 12 miles, and anglers will find this stretch productive for white bass and white perch in early spring, followed by the striped bass run.

Milton, NC

Downstream from the Danville landing is a public access launching ramp owned by the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission which is open to Virginia anglers. The ramp is approximately four miles from U.S. 58 at the Rt. 62 bridge crossing. You can tell by the number of vehicles parked at the landing whether the white bass or striped bass are running. This is the take-out point for the canoeist making the Danville to Milton, North Carolina trip.

South Boston

This is the next available public access to the Dan River. From U.S. 58. take Rt. 304/360 and follow the signs to the VDGIF boat landing. The parking lot at this landing is ample, but will get full when the striper season is in full swing, so be sure to plan for crowded conditions. If you want to canoe, it will take a full day to reach Aarons Creek, and if you're planning a winter float trip, be sure and check the river levels, since the Army Corps of Engineers releases water during that time and the water can get very shallow. You can catch white bass and stripers here in the spring, and catfish, bass, and sunfish throughout the rest of the year. Walleye fishing can be good during the winter. Anglers like to motor up and down the river looking for the best fishing. There are no navigational hazards on this trip until you near the confluence with Hyco River where you will face silty conditions and numerous braided islands. This makes for difficult boating, but excellent wildlife watching, including a close look at otters, beavers, eagles and wading birds.

Hyco River

Hyco River empties into the Dan River about 12 miles downstream from South Boston. This VDGIF landing is easily accessible from Rt. 58. You can fish Hyco River for bass, crappie, white bass and sunfish.

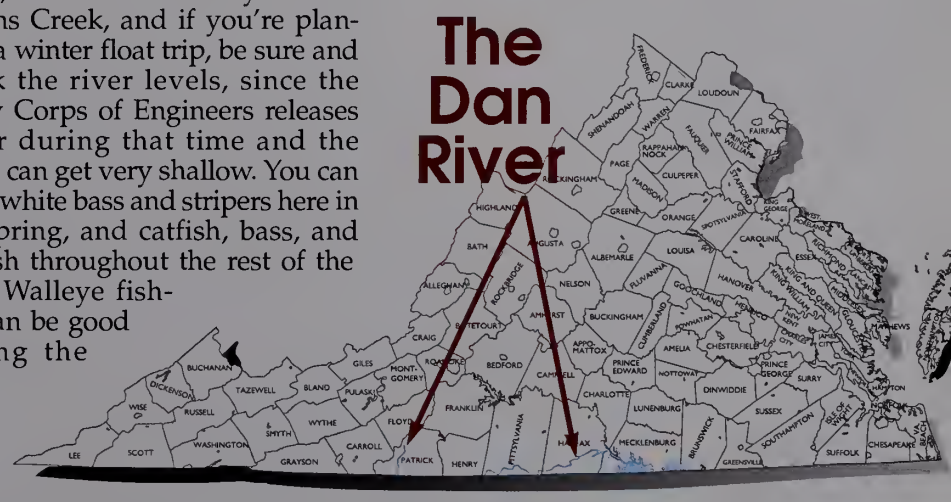
Aarons Creek

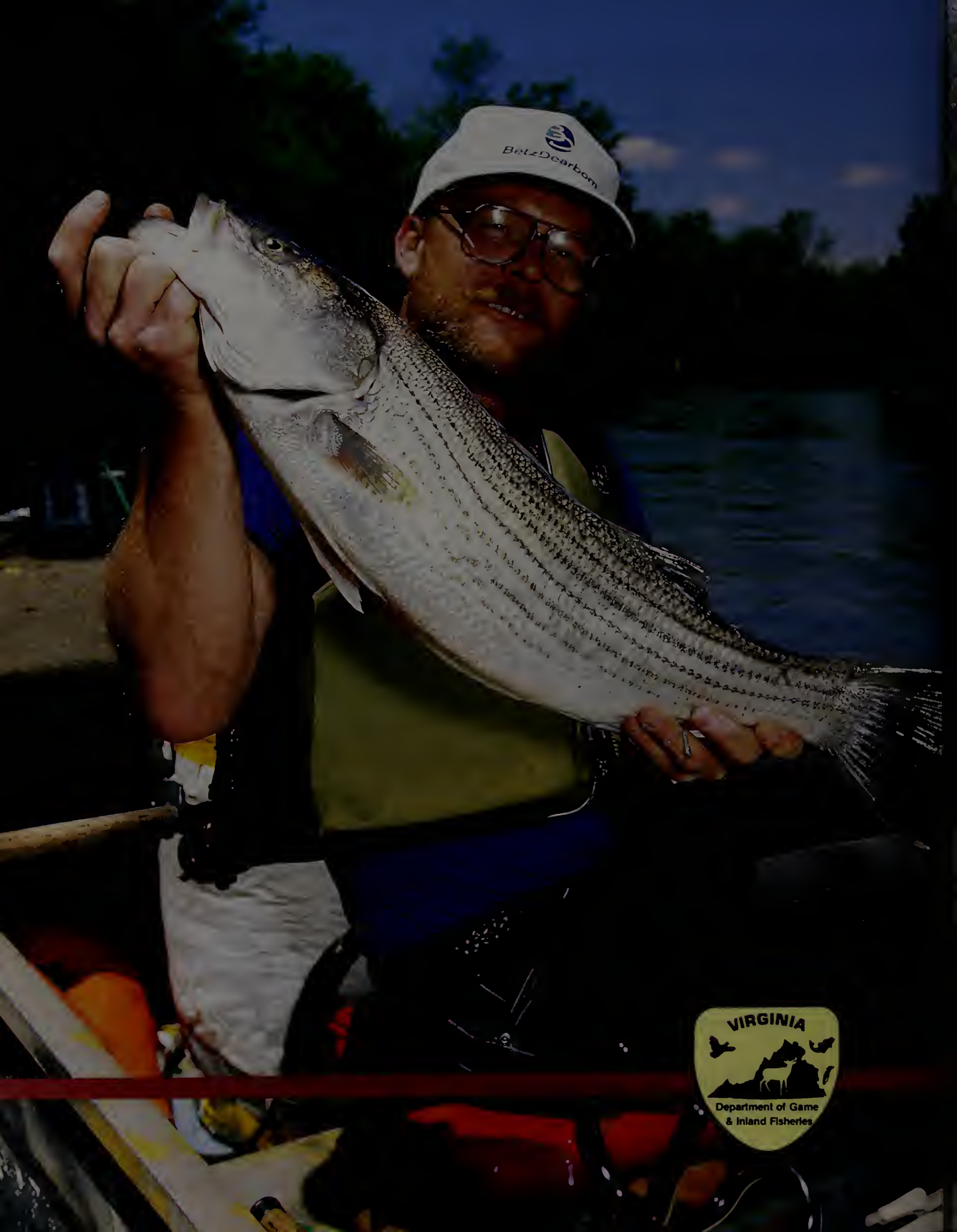
This landing, maintained by the U.S. Corps of Engineers, is located just downstream from Hyco and is easily accessible from Rt. 58. The canoeist floating from South Boston should hug the right bank and paddle past the confluence of the Dan and Hyco Rivers. Keep your eyes out for a bend in river to the left. At that point you'll see a wide grassy landing field on the bank and a rock wall on your right. Paddle up Aarons Creek to the right, and it you will find it in a mile or so on the left.

Staunton River State Park

The state park maintains two launching ramps which are accessed from Rt. 344. One is located on the north side of the Dan River and the other is located at the confluence with the Roanoke River.

Bob Gooch is an outdoor columnist and has written many books on hunting and fishing.




Belz Dearborn
VIRGINIA
Department of Game
& Inland Fisheries

The Smith River

A Virginia Classic

While planning your next fishing trip, remember Southwestern Virginia's Smith River.

By Carol H. Hatcher

©Dwight Dyke

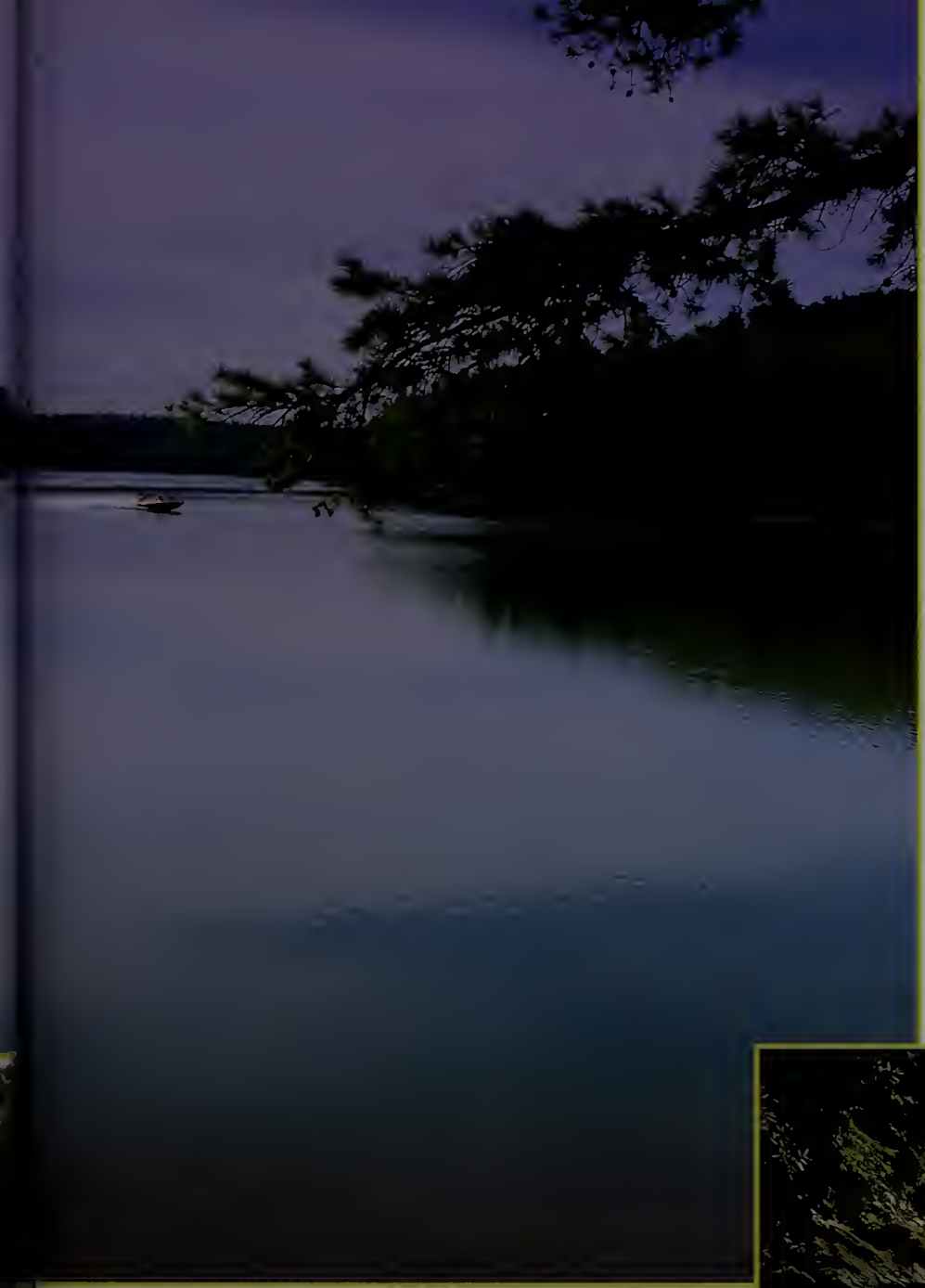
Mention the Smith River to many fishermen, in or out of Virginia, and the image created is that of a classic brown trout stream. But there's more. For its relative shortness, less than 75 miles, the Smith is a busy river. Tumbling, literally, off the east face of the Blue Ridge, the Smith flows northeast, then southeast across Henry County before joining the Dan River, just south of Eden, N.C.

©Dwight Dyke

©Dwight Dyke

The Philpott Reservoir provides a beautiful two-story lake for anglers ***(top)****. Below the Philpott Dam,* ***(bottom left and far right)****, trout anglers have a coldwater fishery.* ***(Above right)****, the Bob White Covered Bridge, across the Smith River near Woolwine, Virginia, in Patrick County.*

There is good smallmouth bass and Roanoke bass (redeye) fishing on the upper river, which is also a popular canoeing section for the beginner and more advanced paddler. Most rapids are Class I and II.



also has good natural reproduction of browns. Thus, the river here is designated a natural trout stream by the state, and at 20.5 miles in length is the longest such stream in Virginia.

Below this section, down to Martinsville, the river still offers trout and largemouth bass in the lower area. The marshy river bottom provides a home for wood ducks and resident Canada geese. The river not only provides a water supply for Henry County, but at Martinsville the river continues its working mode. The City's small, but still operating electrical power generating dam has been a fixture on the river for nearly a century.

Below the dam, the Smith has smallmouth fishing and even offers a few browns, apparently washed over the dam during periods of flooding. But this section of the river, down to North Carolina, is best known locally for its excellent Roanoke bass fishing, particularly in the Morgan Ford and Leatherwood Creek areas. A good number of state trophy redeyes are taken here annually.

Both the North Fork of the Smith and the upper river itself offer this wild trout fishing, as do a half-dozen

©Dwight Dyke

Once out of the higher mountains, the river flows into Philpott Lake, a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers flood control and electrical power project. But it is the cold tailwaters below Philpott Dam, from which the Smith River has gotten its fame since the dam was constructed more than 40 years ago. The Smith here is a brown trout stream deluxe, the best in Virginia, and voted by Trout Unlimited as one of the top 100 streams in the United States.

Its offering of big browns has been outstanding. Catches of 8 to 10 pound fish have been standard fare over the years, and the stream holds the Virginia historical brown trout record for an 18-pound, 11-ounce fish taken by Bill Nease of Martinsville in 1979. The Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries stocks this section with rainbow trout, but the stream

other mountain streams in the same area. However, would-be anglers are cautioned that most of these tiny and fragile streams flow through private property and permission should be obtained before venturing out into what is often very rough country.

While there are no public canoe launching ramps on the upper Smith, most canoeists put in or take out at bridge crossings on the river, or on private property with permission. For longer canoe floats, the ramp just below Union Bridge (on the left) on upper Philpott Lake is a good place to take out.

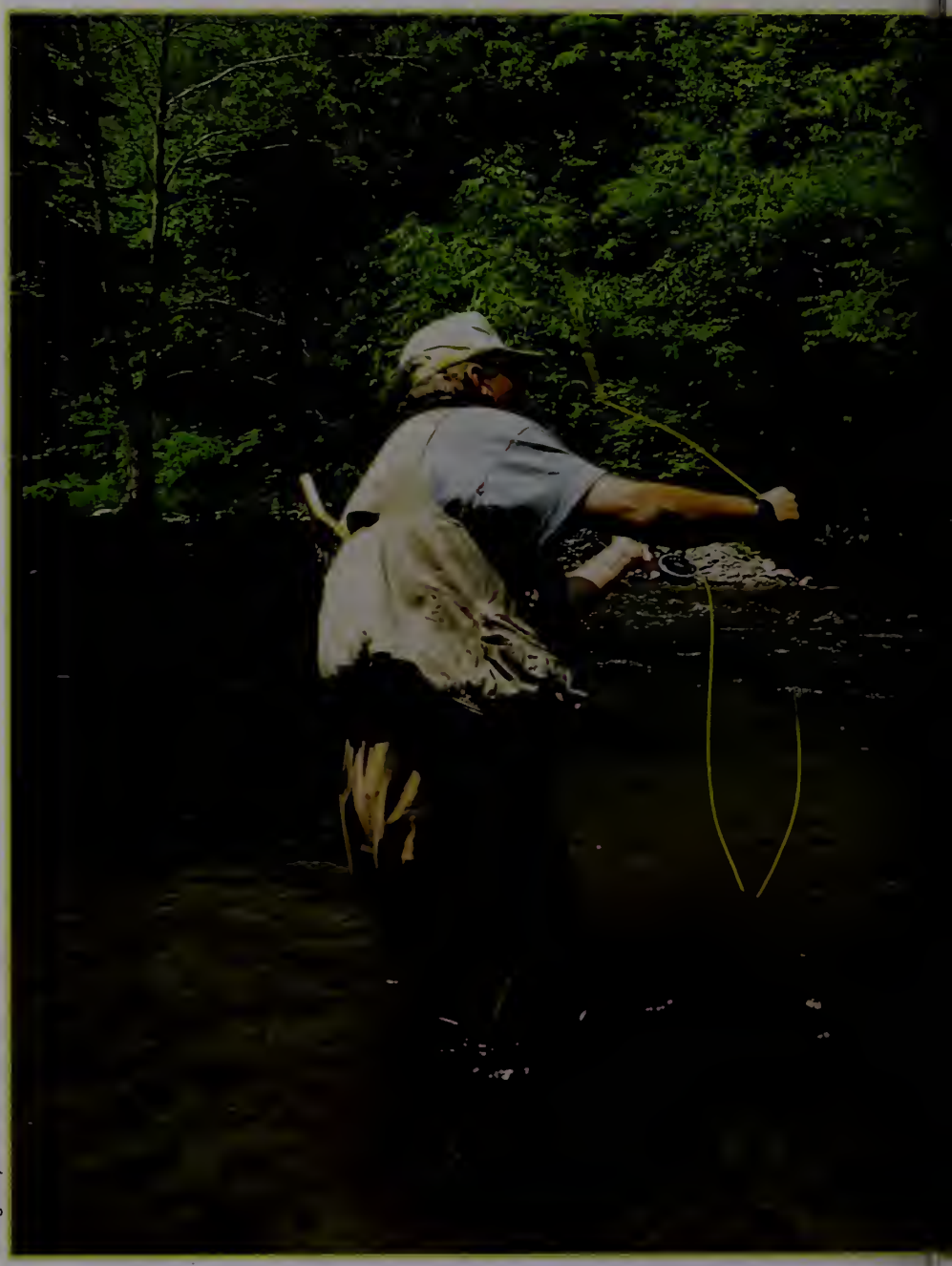
Canoeist Jim Franklin of Bassett says a good trip on the river is from Route 704 bridge to Union Bridge. This section can be run in about six hours, or stretched into an overnighter if you plan a lot of fishing, Franklin said. He noted that all of this section can be floated, but that White Falls should probably be portaged by most boaters in open canoes. Another good source of information on canoeing the upper Smith is Ron Shealor, (540) 694-6873, president of the Smith River Valley Canoe Club.

The river below Philpott Dam is another popular canoe run. As Franklin notes, some of this section is "dragging" water, except when power is being generated. Then the water is high, fast and cold, wiping out most rapids. Boaters should take extra safety measures when canoeing these cold waters.

But of course, it is the tailwater trout fishing below Philpott Dam that attracts most attention to the Smith River. The river here offers good trout fishing the year-round. It attracts not only local fishermen, but also anglers from many states, most coming for the excellent fly fishing.

From the dam to Town Creek, the river is a normally regulated trout stream. The section from Town Creek to the Route 666 bridge at Bassett is a special regulation stream. Single hook lures only are allowed with a creel limit of two trout daily which must be longer than 16 inches. Because most fishing in this area is done by wading, and insulated waders are recommended, it is important to know the power generation schedule. This can be obtained daily by calling the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at (540) 629-2703 or the recording at (540) 629-2432 to get the release schedule.

Robert Bryant of Martinsville, manager of the Orvis Store in Roanoke, grew up fishing the river and is an expert fly fisherman. He's also a former guide on the stream. Bryant says winter fishing is best in the upper section closer to the dam. Fly fishing comes into its own on the regulated section in spring and summer. "About mid-April is March Dun time, and around mid-May is Hendrickson time," says Bryant, speaking of insect hatches on the river. Each angler has his favorite area of the river. For Bryant, the favorite is the Bassett and Stanleytown section. The Roanoke Orvis store operates a guide service for the Smith. Call (540) 345-3635 for information. Another good source of fishing information on the Smith is



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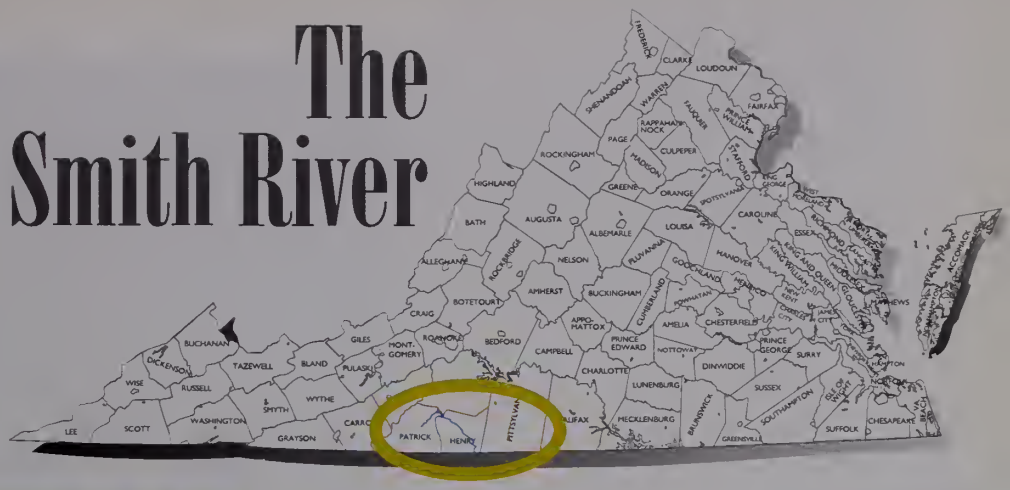
Rake's Sporting Goods at Bassett, (540) 629-7220.

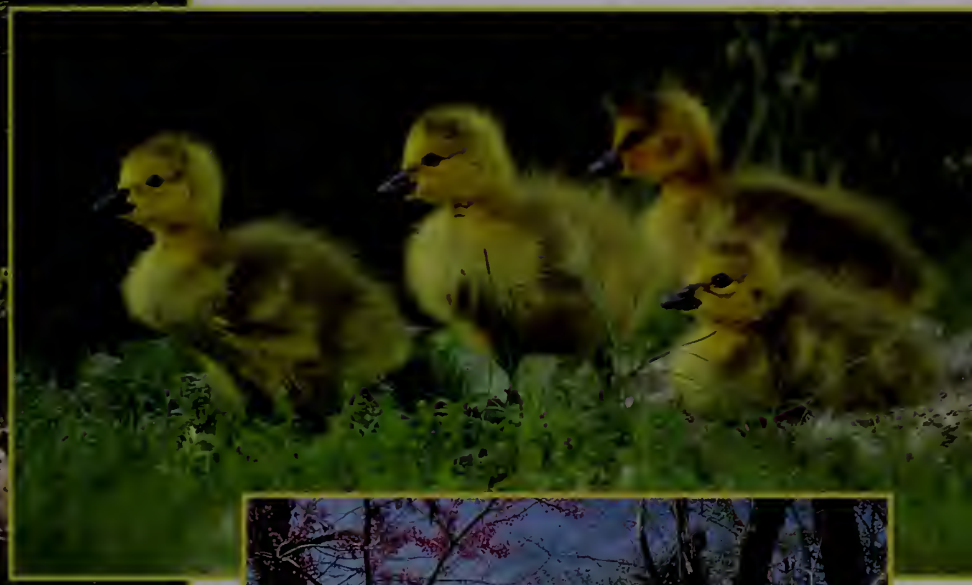
The Smith is a river full of life. But then, apparently it was always that way. About a mile south of Martinsville, a rock formation nearly blocks the river. Part of it was made by man. Archaeologists have determined this was the site of a Native American fish weir used thousands of years ago to trap fish. □

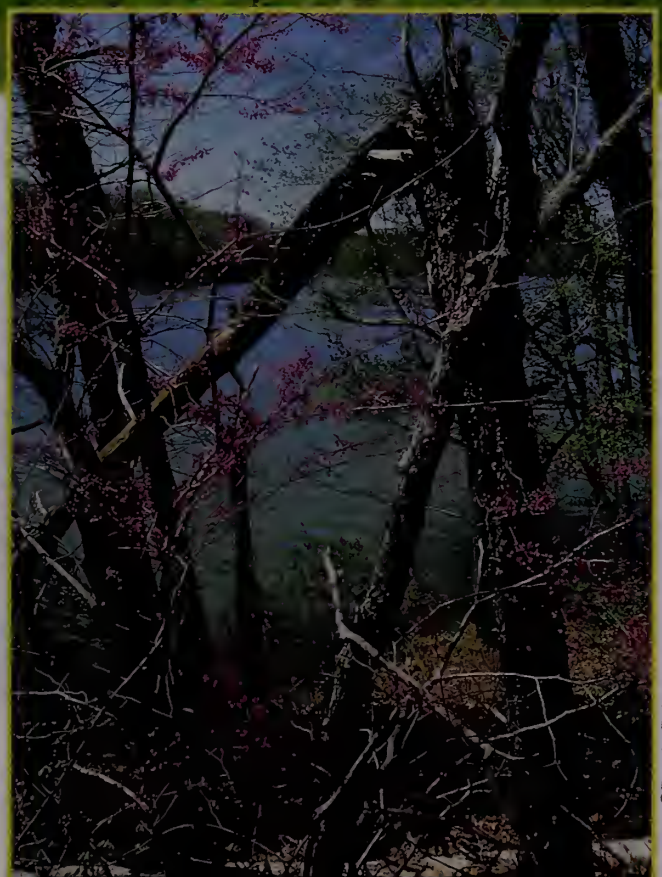
Carol Hatcher is a long-time outdoor writer with the Martinsville Bulletin.

The Smith River



(Below, from left to right): *Fly fishing between the Philpott Reservoir and Bassett, Virginia, is always enjoyable; surrounding wildlife habitats provide homes for a variety of species such as these goslings (Photo by Bill Lane).* ***Below right,*** *a view of Fairy Stone Lake, photo by Dwight Dyke.*





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Whether you come to see the newest in muzzleloaders or to have your newest deer mount scored, you don't want to miss

THE VIRGINIA OUTDOOR SPORTSMAN'S SHOW

by Chris Steuart
Photos by Dwight Dyke

The 1997 Virginia Outdoor Sportsman Show will have exhibits and vendors displaying equipment from hunting's past, present and future, and the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries will be right in the middle of it.

This year the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries will have an even greater role. The Department plans to offer a quail exhibit, an interactive video used in Hunter Education, a large display of law enforcement equipment used by game wardens, a promotion booth for Virginia Wildlife where attendees can also purchase their 1997-98 Wildlife Calendar while taking a look at the Department's Internet Home Page, and a prominent space at the front of the show where you can purchase your hunting and fishing licenses and learn about other department programs.

Department personnel will be involved with scoring deer mounts and judging the Virginia Gobbler Classic, sponsored by Dibert Valve and Fitting Company. The entry fees from the Gobbler Classic go to support Hunters for the Hungry.

Bob Ellis, the assistant chief of wildlife for the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries will again help score the Gobbler Classic, measuring beards and spurs.

"Contests like these encourage people to get out and hunt or just enjoy the outdoors. It also encourages legal hunting because the turkeys have to be accompanied by a legal check card to be considered," Ellis said. "Last year we had a young hunter get his first gobbler scored. He got pretty excited when it scored 40 points," which is the minimum for score to earn a turkey citation award.

"There is so much nice stuff here," said 13-year-old Travis, who in his young hunting career already

has an impressive 7-point buck mounted. "There are so many interesting things here that it would be hard to pick my favorite."

Nearby a vendor pitched an innovative muzzleloader design that featured a recessed muzzle and a barrel that shoots true 50 caliber bullets. "In most cases, the bullet is smaller than the bore in a muzzleloader," he said. "The bullets in my gun are the same size as the bore. So all the energy of the powder stays behind the bullet and allows you to use the full potential of the charge."

The custom-made guns range from $500 to $700. The high-end models are the Safari rifle at $1,500 and the Mountain rifle that goes for $2,500.

To instruct new hunters and to remind the veterans that safety is vital, the Department offered an opportunity to try the Shoot, Don't Shoot video hunting simulator. This Hunter Education teaching device attracted a crowd throughout the three-day show and had passersby craning to sneak a peak at the surreal video.

"It presents situations and people have to choose whether to shoot or not," said David Dodson, a Department Hunter Education training sergeant. "Some situations are unethical and unsafe. Some are just for

The Show has become a big event for the Department in recent years. ***Left:*** *Director William L. Woodfin, Jr. (right), talks to attendees. The show has something for everyone, from the hand crafting of muzzleloaders* ***(top)****, the perfect turkey call for hunters of all ages* ***(above left)****, and an opportunity for parents who hunt to show the youngest of their tribe about spending money wisely on good equipment* ***(above right)****.*

marksmanship. It teaches them firearms sportsmanship, skill and safety. It has generated a lot of interest even with people who don't hunt or fish. They thoroughly enjoyed it."

A seminar on deer management presented by the Department's Deer Project leader Matt Knox was also popular. Knox talked of the historical changes in the Old Dominion's deer herd. In the 1600's, he said, the settlers wrote of vast herds of deer and named the species the Virginia whitetail. But, soon the populations declined because deer were used for a main food source and clothing. They also had a bounty on their heads.

"You've heard the term one buck used when referring to $1? That's what a buckskin was worth then, $1," Knox said.

After years of exporting as many as 100,000 deer hides the deer population crashed and the only sustainable populations survived in the swamp lands of Tidewater Virginia, Knox explained. In 1926 wildlife officials started an intensive restoration effort, importing deer from Texas, Michigan and Wisconsin for release in the western portions of the state. Since then the state's deer population has done an about face, growing from an estimated 25,000 to one million today, and offering a huntable population that annually produces harvests of 200,000 animals. Knox said there are an additional 250,000 deer lost to crippling and natural causes.

Young attendees have many opportunities to learn about the outdoors at the Virginia Outdoor Sportsman's Show. As a representative of the Virginia Wild Turkey Federation, Dave Coffman, (above right), takes time to discuss turkey habits and habitats with a young hunter. Coffman works for the Virginia Department of Forestry and has a life-long interest in resource management issues.

Knox explained the need to stall that growth so deer wouldn't overrun the carrying capacity of the habitat and the human population. He cited $10 to $20 million in crop damage as one piece of evidence to support thinning the herd.

"We have 300,000 deer hunters in this state who we care deeply about," Knox said. "But, we have 6.1 million citizens who are concerned about crop damage, vehicle collisions, urban deer populations and the ecosystem."

Along with using hunting as a population control measure, farmers have moved from crops like soybeans to more profitable cotton. That will decrease the availability of choice food, but timber cutting around the state will replace that habitat loss, Knox said.

"Deer today are overpopulated from society's standpoint. Everybody likes deer until they start eating their azaleas," Knox said. "We have made moves like increasing the doe harvest to help decrease the population to a suitable number and I think we are getting there."

For the audience, especially the younger members, this was a captivating history lesson. "I learned that we have one million deer and that the population needs to be controlled so the deer don't destroy crops or get hit by cars," said 8-year-old Joe. "I also didn't know that there were so many different breeds of deer in Virginia. I can't wait until hunting season."

"This is the only show of its kind in the state," said Denny Quaiff, the executive director of the Virginia Deer Hunters Association. "The show promotes hunting. It's great to bring this many men, women and children together to continue the tradition of hunting. And in today's environment, anytime you can do that it is a good thing." □

Chris Steuart is an outdoor writer residing in Roanoke.

(Above left) Two young boys admire the mounts. (Above) Matt Knox, the Department's Deer Project Leader, explained the facts of whitetail biology and management.
(Right) Mack Walls, a special projects manager with the Department, scores a rack.

This year's show will be held at Richmond's Showplace, August 8-10. For information, call (804) 748-7529.

1996 Angler

Photos by ©Dwight Dyke

Below is the list of anglers who succeeded in obtaining Master or Expert status in the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries' Angler Recognition Program. Congratulations to the best anglers in Virginia for 1996!

Master Angler: Each angler listed caught 5 different trophy size fish.

Expert Angler: Each angler listed caught 10 trophy size fish of the same species.

Trophy Sizes:

	Length	Weight
Bass, Largemouth	22"	8 lbs.
Smallmouth	20"	5 lbs.
Striped	37"	20 lbs.
White	18"	2 lbs., 8 oz.
Rock	12"	1 lb.
Bowfin	30"	10 lbs.
Catfish, Channel	30"	12 lbs.
Flathead	40"	25 lbs.
Blue	34"	20 lbs.
Carp	34"	20 lbs.
Chain Pickerel	24"	4 lbs.
Crappie	15"	2 lbs.
Gar	40"	10 lbs.
Muskellunge	40"	15 lbs.
Northern Pike	30"	6 lbs.
Yellow Perch	12"	1 lbs., 4 oz.
White Perch	13"	1 lbs., 4 oz.
Sunfish	11"	1 lb.
Trout, Brook	16"	2 lbs.
Brown	25"	5 lbs.
Rainbow	22"	4 lbs.
Walleye	25"	5 lbs.

Master Angler III

Charles L. Kania

Master Angler II

Stephen H. Helvin Sr

Master Angler I

Ricky R. Baker
Steven R. Belton
Kevin Lee Bower
Mike E. Conley
Carl E. Coppersmith
Steven A. Cotton
Roy Abbitt Culpeper Jr.
James A. Dale
Doug Deagle
Keith I. Dooley
Bubba Eubank
Michael L. Farlow Jr.
Darryl L. Floyd
James W, Forbes
Mark P. Frazier
Roger Lewis Gill
James R. Gray Jr.
Nathan L. Hargis
Charles E. Haupt Jr.
Obed Holdren
Christopher Hutton
Gordon Ray Jeffries Jr
Michael E. Jenkins
Bert E. Jones Jr.
Charles A. Kincaid Jr.
Fred W. King

Hall of Fame

Lewis F. Lawson
Donald J, Martin
Derek S. Mayhew
Thomas F. McCormick
Gaston J. McDonald
Joe R. Miller
Jim Montgomery
Austin P. Moore
Charles M. Overstreet
Bobby G. Pagan Jr.
Kenneth E. Parker
George W. Parsons
Fredrick L. Payne
Gary T. Reaves
Larry S. Richardson
Ralph E. Robins II
George H. Rowe Jr.
Bill F. Schieman
Jerry Simms
Edward P. Sowder Jr.
Thomas F. Steen Jr.
Steve W. Stone
Mary K. Strickler
John E. Taylor Jr.
Stanley A. Ware
William D. Weakley
Robert L. Wells
David Scott West
Cecil D. Westmoreland
Steven W. Wills Jr.
Paul S. Wray
William L. Wright
Steven J. York
Chuck L. Zimmer Jr.

Expert Anglers

Walter L. Artis
Noel H. Blankenship
Charles T. Blum
Harold D. Bowden
Dennis W. Buisset
Thomas R. Buterbaugh
Andrew R. Campbell
Alan Carr
Randy Christian
Jerry A. Close
Billy Collins
Colin T. Collins
Darrell S. Crawford
James A. Dale
Jefferson F. Davis II
Edward P. Decker
William J. Denny Sr.
Robert D. Douglas
Daniel K. Dunford
Gary G. Eagle
Donald R. Eckelhofer
Bruce A. Hall
Kendall A. Hall
Robert L. Hamilton
Marvin D. Hancock
Gary Harmon
Stephen B. Hedge
Michael R. Heflin Sr.
Will Helmick
Grayson V. Hunter
Mark Ingram
Michael E. Jenkins
Bobby J. Joyce
Jerry A. Krebs
Arlo M. Kunkel
Robert Todd Langley
William R. McDaniel
Roger P. McKinney
Stuart Marshall Jr.
Derek S. Mayhew
Dorothy W. Morris
Jonathan K. Morris
Roger Wayne Moschler
Ronald D. Moss
Mark K. Nicely
Paul J. Piotrowski
Christopher C. Powley
Guy H. Putman Jr.
Jason R. Ratcliff
William R. Roberts
George H. Rowe Jr.
Fred B. Scott
Randy V. Skaggs
Lodias V. Smith
Joseph D. Snyder
Roger G. Spencer
Daniel T. Spotten
Brandon M. Stapleton
Bradford M. Starkey
Richard C. Taylor Jr.
Donald G. Trantham Jr.
John R. Troxell
Gary A. Tyree
Robert Vandermark
Donald Waite
Charles T. Wood Sr.
Keith Wright
Lori L. Zachwieja
Alyssa J. Zachwieja

Photo TipS

By Lynda Richardson

The Freedom of Chest Waders

Chest waders are one of the greatest things invented by modern man. They make you feel invincible…at least when you're trying to photograph wild critters in wet areas. Not only can you slog around in water deeper than your knees (and not get wet!) but you can shoot eye level with many of the critters that call this area their home. Chest waders make it possible for me to plop myself down into mucky water without having to face the cold water of the garden hose afterward. Instead, just remove those waders and give them the hosing.

Having the freedom to walk, kneel and sit in wet areas opened my eyes to greater photographic possibilities. I was now able to go where not everyone was willing to go. Not only was this a bonus for my photography but it opened my eyes to images of creatures I had always wanted to spend more time with. The following is a recent adventure inspired by chest waders.

Walking carefully along the edge of a wetland pond, I looked for watery subjects. I was particularly focused on frogs but every time I got near the little buggers, they would leap out of sight with a startling outburst. I tried everything to fool them. I would watch my shadow to make sure it didn't move in front of me to alert them. I would scrunch down cat-like in my oversized chest waders and creep cautiously through the mud. Nothing seemed to work. As I plopped down to contemplate my next strategy, I noticed a great blue heron at the other end of the pond.

Neck outstretched, she stood very still, eyes turned downwards. Sometimes her reed-like neck waved back and forth ever so slightly as if bracing against the wind. Her brow furrowed with concentration as she moved slowly along the pond edge watching for silvery minnows or crunchy crayfish. Spotting a meal, she would freeze, her body rigid, winding up for the release of her deadly harpoon.

This elegant six spotted fishing spider paused only briefly for a few photographs before it raced off across the pollen laden surface of the pond. Photo by ©Lynda Richardson

No matter how hard I tried there was no way I was going to look like a heron blending into the plant life along the edge of a pond. But working from the heron's strategy, I decided to pick a spot and just sit at the water's edge and observe.

Finding a clearing where I could watch a long portion of the pond bank, I got comfortable making sure all needed camera equipment was within easy grasp. Once settled in, I scanned the entire pond watching for potential subjects. As time went by it became more and more obvious that a lot goes on around a pond. As a matter of fact, pond life reminded me of a carnival. At my feet, whirl-a-gig beetles twirled on the water like bumper cars in control. Dragonflies performed aerial feats of speed and precision, zooming past at break neck speed only to stop suddenly, hovering. Red-winged blackbirds flashed their epaulets like strong men flexing their muscles. All the while, the air was a calliope of sound; the buzz of cicadas, the baritone hum of bullfrogs, the crackle of dragonfly wings and the raucous cat calls of distant crows.

As I settled deeper into the cool mud, a damselfly flitted past me making it's way along the edge of the pond. Fragile wings glittered with sunlight as it's delicate body danced to some inward tune. But suddenly, in a brown flash, the damselfly was pulled from the air. On a mass of pond scum in the water below sat a cricket frog, mouth bulging with the unfortunate flyer.

As I slowly turned to photograph the frog and his prize, I realized how big I was squatting in the mud. Carefully pushing myself forward, butt skyward, I planted my elbows into the muck and inched closer to the feasting amphibian.

By the time I focused my 100mm macro lense, the frog had nearly finished his meal. All that was left was the damsel's long, graceful body which the frog was slowly sucking down like one big spagetti noodle.

After shooting several frames, I quickly glanced down at the camera to check my settings and by the time I looked back to the frog he had gone.

This summer, grab your cameras and a pair of chest waders and travel to a wetland near you. Not only will you enjoy the entertainment, you might be graced by a few miracles of the natural world. I will warn you though, your elbows might get muddy. □

by Col. William Antozzi, Boating Safety Officer

Outboard Motors, Propellers and Stern Drives

Probably your most important single decision in choosing a boating rig for your family is—what motor should I have for my boat? You'll want to know what motors of different horsepower can do.

Motors of lower horsepower—up to 20 hp—are generally called "fishing" motors. They are used on small boats, of many shapes, but usually under 16 feet in length. They are good for trolling and for powering the boat to and from fishing and hunting areas. Small motors are sometimes used also as auxiliaries on sailboats and larger powerboats. On the bigger power boats they are often used to provide power in the event of main engine failure. Although they are lightweight and economical, one of these 10-20 horsepower motors can bring a small "utility" boat up to a fairly good speed.

With a little more horsepower, the outboarder acquires considerably more flexibility. A 20 hp motor, for instance, can do everything that a smaller one can do, including trolling at slow speed. It can induce brisk speeds out of a good-sized runabout and it is almost as compact as a smaller "fishing" motor.

The 35-50 horsepower motors are in a different category entirely. They are general purpose motors; they will plane any type of boat up to and including small cruisers, and they may pull a couple of water-skiers. These motors are available with electric starting, as well as remote controls, so that the operator doesn't have to leave the cockpit steering position. Some are built with "long shafts" of 20 inches instead of the "standard" 15-16 inches to accommodate larger runabouts and cruisers, which have a greater height at the transom.

More powerful motors are available for all-purpose boating. These higher-power outboards give boaters greater versatility, since they do a wide range of tasks well. New, larger more seaworthy boats are increasing in number, and require more power for satisfactory performance and safety, especially as families extend their cruising to open water. Operators who boat upon large bodies of water find better control by using metal transom extensions called "Sea Drives" or "Gill Brackets" which hold the outboard about two feet behind the transom. Equally important, these outboard craft have far greater mobility, flexibility and performance than inboard-outboard craft in the same price range.

Selection of the correct propeller is considered to be the most important single factor in attaining maximum engine performance with a specific boat and motor. Pitch, diameter, and number of blades govern a motor's ability to operate within the recommended rpm range. Given two motors of identical horsepower, one propelling a light runabout, the other a houseboat, it's evident that each should be "equipped" with a different propeller. In some cases it's advisable to purchase two propellers. For example, if your boat is a swift runabout, you could select one prop for maximum speed under light load, and another for extra pulling power in towing water-skiers.

The wrong propellers can cause a condition known as "cavitation" because the water flow around the propeller becomes turbulent and a "cavity" of violently agitated water and water vapor forms around the propellers. There will be a sudden increase in engine rpm accompanied by a sharp reduction in boat speed. This condition will result in boiling temperatures on the fat side of each propeller blade. Some outboards cavitate occasionally, but if it occurs regularly, something is wrong Your dealer is able to advise you on the choice of propellers. Medium and high horsepower outboard motors are sometimes shipped without props, so that the dealer can help select the propellers which will be most effective.

Stern drive units, sometimes called inboard-outboard, are designed to transmit the power of an inboard engine through the transom and downward to the propeller shaft. An important feature of the stern drive unit is its ability to tilt and steer like an outboard motor. This overcomes the operating limitations of conventional inboard engine installations which transmit power through a direct-drive propeller shaft rigidly mounted under the hull.

Unlike conventional direct-drive inboards, the tilting feature permits stern drives to operate in shallower water and in the presence of submerged or floating objects. It should be remembered that problems can still occur if the water is too shallow. Steering control is directly responsive to propeller thrust and does not depend on rudder reaction; therefore stern drives react positively to steering control in either forward or reverse, even when the boat is at a standstill; this gives big vessels with stern drives a degree of maneuverability comparable to that of outboard-powered motors. □

Habitat

by Nancy Hugo

Bee Balm

"One of my pleasures of an early July morning is spotting drowsy bumblebees who spent the night under bee balm flowers, sleeping, as it were, under the breakfast table."

—Alice Yarborough

You'll find all kinds of nectar lovers—bumblebees, hummingbirds, hummingbird moths, butterflies—sipping at the tubular florets that make up the shaggy flowers of bee balm. Even after the flowers fade, bee balm serves wildlife, because birds eat seeds from the round, dry flowerheads.

Four species of *Monarda* grow wild in Virginia, but the two most often referred to as bee balm are lavender-flowered *Monarda fistulosa* and red-flowered *Monarda didyma*. *Monarda fistulosa*, also known as wild bergamot, and *Monarda didyma*, called Oswego tea, are both native to the state, but the latter grows wild only in scattered counties in the western part of Virginia. You'll find both of these wildflowers being cultivated in the yards of savvy gardeners all over the Commonwealth, however, because gardeners have discovered that not only are they easy to grow, beneficial to wildlife, and showy in the garden, they're incredibly useful in herbal concoctions and cooking. It may have been to accommodate the long bills of hummingbirds that the red florets of *Monarda didyma* developed their unusual shape, but people have found the plant's aromatic flowers and leaves equally suited to their taste. Because their color is so dramatic, it's fun to pull bee balm's edible single florets off and throw them into salads. Some people also put them in jams, jellies, and baked goods, and the most delicious dessert I ever ate was a peach shortcake that had individual red bee balm florets added to the batter of the shortcake and scattered on top of the whipped cream. Like "a blend of citrus, sweet, hot, and mint" is the way one cook describes the flavor of bee balm flowers.

The beauty of the bee-balm is readily apparent in this photo. Photo by Bill Lane.

Bee balm leaves have a history of culinary and medicinal use, too. "Oswego tea" made from *Monarda didyma* leaves, was drunk by Indians who taught colonists to appreciate it, and it became even more popular after the Boston Tea Party when imported teas were unavailable. Even today, you may drink tea made from bee balm leaves without knowing it because "natural oil of bergamot" is an ingredient in some brands of Earl Gray tea. (*Monarda fistulosa*, the species with lavender, pink, and sometimes white flowers, was reportedly called wild bergamot because it smelled like the bergamot oranges grown around Bergamo, Italy.) You can make a tea of bee balm leaves yourself by drying them for a couple of weeks then steeping them in boiling water, or you can just pour boiling water over a few fresh bee balm leaves and let them steep. I can't testify to the tea's medicinal effect (Indians reportedly used it to treat chills and fever), but its aroma alone gives me a sense of well-being. "Not recommended for medicinal use today," is the description accompanying bee balm in one of my modern herbals, but I've read that both bee balm and another of our native Monardas, horsemint (*Monarda punctata*), are used commercially, along with common thyme, to make Thymol, an antiseptic in Listerine and other mouthwashes. Crushed, fresh bee balm leaves were also once applied to skin to provide relief from insect bites.

Members of the mint family, these square-stemmed plants are easy to grow and will quickly form multi-stemmed clumps 3 to 6 feet tall. *Monarda didyma*, the red species, thrives best in moist areas like streambanks, pond sites, wet meadows; the lavender (and sometimes white or pink) *Monarda fistulosa* tolerates drier soils. Both like full to filtered sun, but *Monarda fistulosa* is the more sun-loving of the two. Most any garden or wildflower meadow can accommodate one or both of these plants, and as magnets for wildlife and as resources for people, I recommend them. ☐

July Afield

by Jack Randolph

©Dwight Dyke

July is a peak month on Virginia's waterways. Fishermen compete with water-skiers and boaters who, in turn, compete with the jet ski set for the use of the waters. The kids are out of school, many families are on vacation and everyone—vacationer or weekend warrior alike—is trying to get the most out of his limited time away from the work-a-day world.

Because there are only so many places to boat, fish and swim we must learn to share as best we can. About the only way we can stretch our resources is to learn to get along with each other.

Many anglers pull themselves out of this competition for space by fishing at night. On many of our larger, heavily utilized waters, such as Philpott Lake, night bass tournaments have become very popular. Not only do these night fishermen avoid the crowds, but they also catch lots of fish.

Night fishing on Virginia's saltwater piers is a great way to catch fish and beat the heat at the same time. Species such as croakers and trout feed heavily at night and pier fish-attracting lights, beamed straight into the water, call lots of fish, mainly trout, to within reach of the fishermen on the piers.

Another way to get away from the maddening crowed is to fish the many farm ponds, Game Department ponds and water supply reservoirs that have horsepower restrictions that favor fishermen. The current edition of the *Virginia Fishing Guide*, published by the Game Department, includes a list of such waters.

Anglers who fish the many smallmouth bass rivers will find good fishing, but they will also encounter more than the usual number of canoeists on the river. Usually, the canoes will glide by silently and anglers can continue to fish. This is the time of the year when rain is often scarce and the rivers are quite low. Under these conditions the smallmouths and other species will often be found in or close to riffles where the water is apt to contain more oxygen.

For summertime seclusion the serious trout fisherman will find it on the tiny mountain streams where he can share the day with native brook trout, the birds and possibly a few woodticks, but it is unlikely that he'll encounter many folks.

Also, last year in July, numbers of the Game Department staff, many sportsmen throughout the state, and many professionals in the fish and wildlife conservation information business throughout the country were saddened by the news of the passing of Harry Gillam. Harry worked with the Game Department of Tennessee before coming to Virginia and here, in the Old Dominion he made his mark, advancing to the position of Chief of the Education Division before his retirement in 1988.

This is great time of the year for saltwater fishing. Nearly all of the species of fish that summer in Virginia have arrived. The most exciting of these summer visitors are tarpon which appear in modest numbers along the Eastern Shore.

Years ago, while fishing off of Fort Monroe, the skipper of our party boat had a rig made of chain with a spreader holding two huge hooks. He baited each one with a live spot and heaved it overboard. I asked him what he was fishing for and he replied, "Black bonito."

I had never heard of a black bonito, but later I learned that this was the local name for cobia. Apparently, the name, "black bonito" wasn't very well entrenched because it has long since faded as the cobia gained tremendously in popularity.

Truly, the big game fish of the bay, the cobia, which can weigh as much as 100 pounds, offers excitement and the prospects of many delicious fish dinners to bay fishermen. They arrive in late May, but July is a prime month for them.

July is also prime time to find big black drum grazing on the mussel beds along the Bridge Tunnel. Saltwater fishing ethics have evolved to the point that few black drum are killed by anglers. The big drum are often wormy and unappetizing. Many anglers now realize that a large black drum is a very old fish and it will take a long time to replace it. Normally, this big fish is caught and carefully released.

A relatively new fish of summer is the spadefish. This fish, which looks slightly like a huge bream with black stripes, often exceeds nine pounds in weight and they can be found around structure and wrecks with considerable regularity.

A word of caution. As this is written consideration is being given to set a creel limit on spadefish, so check the law before you fish. □

Recipes

By Joan Cone

You're In For A Treat With Walleye!

When fishermen think of the walleye, they can't help but be inspired to catch them. These fish can grow to over 30 inches in length and over 10 pounds in weight. Walleye can be caught best after nightfall and are widely stocked to help control overpopulated panfish. For many fishermen and cooks, the walleye is the best-tasting of all freshwater fish.

Menu

Cold Zucchini Soup
Baked Walleye With Carrots
Goat Cheese Salad
Peach Halves With Crumbly Topping

Cold Zucchini Soup

3 ½ pounds zucchini, thinly sliced
1 cup chicken broth
¼ cup butter or margarine
1 tablespoon flour
1 cup milk
Salt and white pepper to taste
½ teaspoon dried whole marjoram
¼ teaspoon dried whole tarragon

Combine zucchini and chicken broth in a Dutch oven; bring to a boil. Cover, reduce heat and simmer 15 minutes or until zucchini is tender. Spoon mixture into container of a processor and blend until smooth. Melt butter in a Dutch oven over low heat; add flour, stirring until smooth. Cook 1 minute, stirring constantly. Gradually add milk and cook 1 minute, stirring constantly. Gradually add zucchini mixture and remaining ingredients. Cook over medium heat, stirring constantly, until thoroughly heated. Remove from heat and chill. Yields 2 quarts.

Baked Walleye with Carrots

1 ½ pounds walleye fillets, skin removed
2 cups grated carrots
3 tablespoons margarine or butter, melted
2 tablespoons lemon juice
¼ teaspoon ground thyme
Salt to taste
3 tablespoons margarine or butter
3 ½ tablespoons flour
Salt and pepper to taste
⅓ cup milk

Heat oven to 450°. Spray a 13 x 9-inch baking dish with nonstick vegetable cooking spray. Arrange fillets, slightly overlapping, in prepared dish. Set aside. In medium bowl, combine carrots, melted margarine, juice, thyme and salt. Spread mixture evenly over fillets. Cover with foil. Bake for 25 to 30 minutes, or until fish is firm and opaque and just begins to flake. Drain liquid from fish into a 2-cup measure. Cover fish with foil to keep warm. Set aside. Add water to liquid in cup to equal 1 ⅓ cups. In a 1-quart saucepan, melt 3 tablespoons margarine over medium heat. Stir in flour, salt and pepper. Blend in cooking liquid mixture and milk. Cook for 5 to 7 minutes or until mixture thickens and bubbles, stirring constantly. Pour sauce evenly over fish and serve over hot rice or linguine. Makes 4 servings.

Goat Cheese Salad

½ teaspoon crushed garlic
1 teaspoon Dijon mustard
1 tablespoon red wine vinegar
2 tablespoons olive oil
1 tablespoon lemon juice
2 tablespoons water
4 cups torn lettuce (Boston or romaine)
2 ounces goat cheese, crumbled
¼ cup sun-dried tomatoes, cut into pieces

In a small bowl combine garlic, mustard, vinegar, oil, lemon juice and water until well mixed. Place lettuce in serving bowl and sprinkle with goat cheese and tomatoes. Pour dressing over top and toss gently. Serves 4.

*Peach Halves with Crumbly Topping

⅔ cup all-purpose flour
⅔ cup firmly packed brown sugar
⅔ cup regular or quick-cooking rolled oats
3 tablespoons unsalted butter, at room temperature, cut into pieces
½ teaspoon ground nutmeg
¼ teaspoon salt
6 large firm, ripe freestone peaches
2 tablespoons brandy, rum or fresh lemon juice

Preheat oven to 350°. Coat an 8-inch square cake pan or a 9-inch round pie pan with nonstick cooking spray. In a bowl, combine the flour, brown sugar, rolled oats, butter, nutmeg and salt. Using your fingers or a pastry blender, rub or cut the butter into the dry ingredients until the mixture is crumbly, set aside. Halve the peaches and remove their pits. It is not necessary to peel them unless you wish to do so. Place the peaches, cut sides up, in a single layer in the prepared pan. Drizzle with the liquor or lemon juice and then sprinkle evenly with the oat topping.

Bake until the topping has browned and the peaches are tender when pierced with the tin of a sharp knife, 25-30 minutes. Remove from the oven and let cool briefly, then serve warm. Serves 4. ☐

*Recipe from the Williams-Sonoma Kitchen Library: *Healthy Cooking* by John Phillip Carroll (Time-Life Books; February 1997; $18.95/hardcover)

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Game Wardens Have Their Own Continuing Education

Officer John Hall **(left)** of Floyd County and Officer Rolland Cox of Craig County participated in law enforcement training held recently at Claytor Lake. Scenario training provides officers with a wide variety of real life situations involving potential dangerous, yet necessary law enforcement actions. This training session encompassed tactical concerns present in a marine environment. All Division personnel received instruction in the area of firearms, felony boardings and watercraft operations. Similar training was conducted on the lower James River for officers located in the eastern portion of the state.

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